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Palisades Nuclear Plant and Big Rock Point Plant Consideration of Approval of Transfer of Control of Licenses and Conforming Amendments

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Palisades Nuclear Plant and Big Rock Point Plant Consideration of Approval of Transfer of Control of Licenses and Conforming Amendments

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General Comment

The transfer of licenses and ownership, from current owner Entergy Nuclear to proposed new owner Holtec International, for the Palisades and Big Rock Point nuclear power plant sites, is a bad idea. Holtec proposes to do the decommissioning (facility dismantlement and radiological cleanup) of the Palisades site, and highly radioactive waste (irradiated nuclear fuel) management at both sites. NRC approved the supposed completion of decommissioning at the closed Big Rock Point atomic reactor, and release of the site for unrestricted use, in 2006, a decision that a broad environmental coalition, including Nuclear Information and Resource Service, Don't Waste Michigan, and Coalition for a Nuclear-Free Great Lakes have protested, due to lingering hazardous radioactive contamination of the soil, groundwater, and Lake Michigan sediments, which pose an ongoing risk on-site and to the ecosystem, food chain, and drinking water supply downstream. Holtec has a checkered past, and is a dubious choice to do this work.