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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

Of course Palisades should shut for good, by May 31, 2022 at the latest. It never should have been constructed and operated in the first place. For health, environment, safety, and security's sake, it should have been shut not years, but decades ago. So we welcome the fact that after May 31, 2022, a reactor core meltdown can no longer happen at Palisades. We also celebrate the fact that no more high-level radioactive waste will be generated.

However, the radioactive risks will continue, even after reactor shutdown. There is significant contamination of the entire site, with hazardous radioactivity and toxic chemicals. There is also a vast amount of high-level radioactive waste stored on-site, where it will almost certainly remain not for years, but for decades to come.

It is unacceptable to put crooked, untrustworthy companies like Holtec and SNC-Lavalin in charge of radiological clean up and high-level radioactive waste management at Palisades. They will do as little radiological clean up, and will take as many shortcuts on high-level radioactive waste management, as the complicit Nuclear Regulatory Commission will allow. They will then put the lion's share of the Nuclear Decommissioning Trust Fund in their pockets, as pure profit. The radioactive risks -- lingering contamination, irradiated nuclear fuel -- left behind at Palisades after that will continue to haunt the public forevermore into the future.

For these reasons, Palisades' (and Big Rock Point's), licenses should not be transferred to Holtec and its decommissioning partner SNC-Lavalin.