

Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. Palisades Nuclear Plant 27780 Blue Star Memorial Highway Covert, MI 49043-9530 Tel 269-764-2000

Charles F. Arnone Site Vice President

PNP 2017-007

March 30, 2017

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission ATTN: Document Control Desk Washington, DC 20555-0001

SUBJECT: License Amendment Request – Cyber Security Plan Implementation Schedule

Palisades Nuclear Plant Docket 50-255 Renewed Facility Operating License No. DPR-20

- REFERENCES: 1. NRC letter to Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc., *Palisades Nuclear Plant* - *Issuance of Amendment Regarding the Cyber Security Plan: (TAC No. ME4355)*, dated July 28, 2011 (ADAMS Accession No. ML111801243)
  - 2. NRC Internal Memorandum to Barry Westreich from Russell Felts, Review Criteria for Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 73.54, Cyber Security Implementation Schedule Milestone 8 License Amendment Requests, dated October 24, 2013 (ADAMS Accession No. ML13295A467)
  - NRC letter to Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc., Palisades Nuclear Plant, Unit 1 - Inspection of Temporary Instruction 2201/004, "Inspection of Implementation of Interim Cyber Security Milestones 1–7" Inspection Report 05000255/2015407, dated October 14, 2015 (ADAMS Accession No. ML15289A409)
  - Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc., letter to NRC, Closure Notification Cyber Security Violations Documented in Inspection of Implementation of Interim cyber Security Milestones 1–7 Inspection Report, dated March 24, 2016 (ADAMS Accession No. ML16084A074)
  - NRC letter to Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc., Palisades Nuclear Plant

     Issuance of Amendment Re: Cyber Security Plan Implementation Schedule (CAC No. MF6351), dated May 2, 2016 (ADAMS Accession No. ML16078A068)
  - Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc., letter to NRC, *Certification of Permanent Cessation of Power Operations*, dated January 4, 2017 (ADAMS Accession No. ML17004A062)

NRC letter to Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc., Palisades Nuclear Plant

 NRC Integrated Inspection Report 05000255/2016004;
 05000255/2016501; 07200007/2015001; and 07200007/2016001,
 dated February 14, 2017 (ADAMS Accession No. ML17045A709)

Dear Sir or Madam:

Pursuant to 10 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 50.4, *Written communications*, and 10 CFR 50.90, *Application for amendment of license, construction permit, or early site permit*, Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. (ENO) hereby requests an amendment to the Renewed Facility Operating License (RFOL) for the Palisades Nuclear Plant (PNP). In accordance with the guidelines provided by Reference 2, this request proposes a change to the PNP Cyber Security Plan (CSP) Milestone 8 full implementation date as set forth in the CSP Implementation Schedule approved in References 1 and 5.

In Reference 6, ENO notified the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) that PNP will permanently cease power operations on October 1, 2018. To support the decommissioning of PNP, ENO is requesting a change to the Milestone 8 date that is beyond: the cessation of operations, the reactor has been defueled, the time-to-boil is measured in days, instead of hours, and when the fuel stored in the spent fuel pool is expected to have decayed to the point where the risk of a fire in the zirconium fuel cladding following a beyond-design-basis event involving the loss of spent fuel pool water inventory is significantly reduced. During the Milestone 8 extension period, ENO plans to maintain the previously implemented CSP Milestones 1 through 7, which were inspected by the NRC for compliance and closure of findings, as described in References 3, 4, and 7.

Attachment 1 provides an analysis of the proposed change. Attachment 2 contains the proposed marked-up pages for Section 2.E of the PNP RFOL, which references the CSP amendments containing the milestones that are the subject of the commitment change proposed in this submittal. Attachment 3 contains the proposed revised operating license pages. Attachment 4 contains a proposed revised CSP implementation schedule date for the full implementation of Milestone 8. Attachment 5 contains one revised commitment related to the full implementation of PNP the CSP.

The proposed changes have been evaluated in accordance with 10 CFR 50.91(a)(1), *Notice for public comment*, using criteria in 10 CFR 50.92(c), *Issuance of amendment*, and it has been determined that the changes involve no significant hazards consideration. The bases for this determination are included in Attachment 1.

ENO requests approval of the proposed license amendment by December 15, 2017. Once approved, the amendment will be effective as of the date of issuance and shall be implemented within 30 days.

This letter contains one revised commitment related to the full implementation of the PNP CSP, which is listed in Attachment 5.

In accordance with 10 CFR 50.91(b), *State consultation*, ENO is notifying the State of Michigan of this proposed license amendment by transmitting a copy of this letter to the designated state official.

Should you have any questions concerning this letter, or require additional information, please contact Jim Miksa at 269-764-2945.

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I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on March 30, 2017.

Sincerely,

CFA/jpm

- Attachments: 1. Analysis of Proposed Operating License Change
  - 2. Proposed PNP Operating License Changes (mark-up)
  - 3. Operating License Page Change Instructions and Revised PNP Operating License Pages
  - 4. Revised Cyber Security Plan Implementation Schedule
  - 5. List of Revised Regulatory Commitments
- cc: Administrator, Region III, USNRC Project Manager, Palisades, USNRC Resident Inspector, Palisades, USNRC State of Michigan

#### **ATTACHMENT 1**

Analysis of Proposed Operating License Change

Six pages follow

#### **1.0 SUMMARY DESCRIPTION**

This license amendment request (LAR) includes a proposed change to the Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. (ENO), Palisades Nuclear Plant (PNP) Cyber Security Plan (CSP) implementation schedule Milestone 8 full implementation date, and a proposed revision to Section 2.E of the PNP renewed facility operating license (RFOL), which references the CSP amendments containing the milestones. This change is requested to support PNP's transition, starting on October 1, 2018, from an operating power plant to a decommissioned plant.

#### 2.0 DETAILED DESCRIPTION

In Reference 1, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued a license amendment to the RFOL for PNP that approved the PNP CSP and associated implementation schedule for Milestones 1 through 8. In Reference 5, the NRC issued a license amendment that revised the Milestone 8 full implementation date to December 15, 2017. In Reference 6, ENO notified the NRC that PNP will permanently cease power operations on October 1, 2018. Since this notification, ENO has continued to maintain the previously implemented cyber security Milestones 1 through 7, which were inspected for compliance by the NRC as described in References 3 and 4. In Reference 2, the NRC provided criteria to be used for evaluation of license amendment requests to revise the CSP Implementation Schedule Milestone 8 date. The information requested by Reference 2 is provided in Section 3.0 below. To support the planned decommissioning of PNP, ENO is proposing a change to the Milestone 8 full implementation date, from December 15, 2017, to May 31, 2020.

#### 3.0 TECHNICAL EVALUATION

On July 26, 2010, in accordance with 10 CFR 73.54, *Protection of digital computer and communications systems and networks* (nuclear cyber security rule), ENO submitted a proposed schedule for PNP achieving full compliance with the cyber security rule. The schedule was approved (Reference 1) and consists of eight milestones, with interim Milestones 1 through 7, as amended by Reference 7, having been completed by December 31, 2012. Milestones 1 through 7 were subsequently inspected for compliance by the NRC in 2015 (Reference 3), closed by PNP in 2016 (Reference 4), and finding closure inspected by the NRC, with no new findings, in 2016 (Reference 8, pages 27 and 28). Presently, Milestone 8 (full compliance with the rule) is required to be completed by December 15, 2017, however, as described in Reference 6, ENO intends to permanently cease power operations at PNP on October 1, 2018.

Below is ENO's discussion of the eight evaluation criteria listed in Reference 2:

## 1. Identification of the specific requirement or requirements of the CSP that the licensee needs additional time to implement.

ENO requests that full implementation of CSP requirements per Milestone 8 be rescheduled from December 15, 2017 to May 31, 2020. The specific requirement is described in Cyber Security Plan, Section 3.1, "Analyzing Digital Computer Systems and Networks and Applying Cyber Security Controls."

During this additional period, ENO will continue to comply with the requirements of Milestones 1 through 7.

## 2. Detailed justification that describes the reason additional time is required to implement the specific requirement or requirements identified.

On January 4, 2017, in accordance with 10 CFR 50.82, *Termination of license*, ENO notified the NRC of the intent to permanently cease power operations at PNP effective October 1, 2018. Completing the remaining Milestone 8 actions by December 31, 2017 is not a prudent use of ENO resources because digital assets that have been identified as CDAs while the reactor is operating will not be required for significant safety, security, and emergency preparedness (SSEP) functions after the reactor is certified under 10 CFR 50.82 to be permanently shut down and defueled. Therefore, the CDAs associated with those functions will no longer be required and, consequently, the current CDAs associated with those functions will no longer be protected subject to 10 CFR 73.54 after the 10 CFR 50.82 certifications have been submitted. As such, extending the remaining Milestone 8 actions until May 31, 2020 has no adverse effect on nuclear safety given that ENO is required to maintain the previously implemented actions for Milestones 1 through 7.

### 3. Proposed completion date for Milestone 8 consistent with the remaining scope of work to be conducted and the resources available.

The proposed completion date for Milestone 8 is May 31, 2020. By this date, PNP will be beyond the cessation of power operations, the reactor will be defueled, the time-to-boil will be measured in days, instead of hours, and the fuel stored in the spent fuel pool is expected to have decayed to the point where the risk of a fire in the zirconium fuel cladding following a beyond-design-basis event involving the loss of spent fuel pool water inventory is significantly reduced. Once this plant condition is achieved, the CSP license condition is no longer required and ENO plans to submit a license amendment request (LAR) to remove the condition from PNP's RFOL.

## 4. Evaluation of the impact that the additional time to implement the requirements will have on the effectiveness of the overall cyber security program in the context of milestones already completed.

Cyber security protections provided by the completion and maintenance of Milestones 1 through 7 actions ensure that the program will continue to be effective in significantly mitigating the risk of the design basis threat (DBT) via cyber means. Most notably, safety-related, important-to-safety, and security CDAs will continue to be deterministically isolated from external networks; stringent control of portable media and mobile devices connected to CDAs will continue, including use of standalone scanning kiosks, use of passive media in the file transfer process, and use of level-specific kiosks and media; and implementation of technical cyber security controls and security officer observation for CDAs that support physical security target set functions. Additionally, although not required until Milestone 8, ENO is in the process of implementing procedures governing CDA configuration management, cyber security incident response and recovery, and cyber security training.

# 5. Description of the methodology for prioritizing completion of work for CDAs associated with significant SSEP consequences and with reactivity effects in the balance of plant.

CDAs are plant components, that are subject to the maintenance prioritization and normal work management process which places the highest priority on apparent conditions adverse to quality in system, structure, and component (SSC) design function and related factors such as safety risk and nuclear defense-in-depth, as well as threats to continuity of electric power generation in the balance-of-plant (BOP). Further, in regard to deterministic isolation and control of portable media and mobile devices (PMMD) for safety-related, important-to-safety (including BOP), and security CDAs, maintenance of one-way or air-gapped configurations and implementation of control of PMMD remains high priority. This prioritization enabled timely completion of cyber security Interim Milestones 3 and 4. High focus continues to be maintained on prompt attention to any emergent issue with CDAs that would potentially challenge the established cyber protective barriers.

## 6. Discussion of the cyber security program performance up to the date of the license amendment request.

No compromise of SSEP functions by cyber means has been identified. As documented in References 3 and 4, an NRC inspection at PNP of ENO's compliance with Milestones 1 through 7 was concluded on September 17, 2015, and findings were determined to be of very low significance (green non-cited, granted enforcement discretion). Additionally, at PNP, an annual ENO quality assurance (QA) audit has been conducted every year since 2013 pursuant to the physical security program review required by 10 CFR 73.55(m), *Security program reviews*. The QA audit includes review of cyber security program implementation. The audits have identified no significant findings related to overall cyber security program performance and effectiveness.

#### 7. Discussion of cyber security issues pending in the corrective action program.

No cyber security issues that would constitute a threat to proper CDA function or that would call into question cyber security program effectiveness are currently pending in the corrective action program.

## 8. Discussion of modifications completed to support the cyber security program and a discussion of pending cyber security modifications.

Modifications completed include those required to deterministically isolate Level 3 and 4 CDAs, as required by nuclear cyber security implementation schedule interim Milestone 3. No modifications are pending.

This LAR includes the proposed change to the existing operating license condition for Section 2.E of the PNP renewed facility operating license (RFOL), which references the CSP amendments containing the milestones (Attachments 2 and 3). This LAR contains the proposed revised CSP implementation schedule (Attachment 4), and also provides a revised list of regulatory commitments (Attachment 5).

#### 4.0 **REGULATORY EVALUATION**

#### 4.1 Applicable Regulatory Requirements/Criteria

10 CFR 73.54, *Protection of digital computer and communications systems and networks*, requires licensees to maintain and implement a CSP. PNP's RFOL No. DPR-20 includes a Physical Protection license condition that requires ENO to fully implement and maintain in effect all provisions of the NRC approved CSP, including changes made pursuant to the authority of 10 CFR 50.90 and 10 CFR 50.54(p).

#### 4.2 Significant Safety Hazards Consideration

Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. (ENO) is requesting an amendment to the Palisades Nuclear Plant (PNP) Renewed Facility Operating License (RFOL) to revise the Physical Protection license condition as it relates to the Cyber Security Plan (CSP). This change includes a proposed change to a CSP implementation schedule milestone date and a proposed revision to the PNP RFOL to include the proposed deviation. Specifically, ENO is proposing a change to the Implementation Milestone 8 completion date.

ENO has evaluated whether or not a significant hazards consideration is involved with the proposed amendment by focusing on the three standards set forth in 10 CFR 50.92, "Issuance of Amendment," as discussed below:

1. Does the proposed change involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated?

Response: No.

The proposed change to the CSP implementation schedule is administrative in nature. This change does not alter accident analysis assumptions, add any initiators, or affect the function of plant systems or the manner in which systems are operated, maintained, modified, tested, or inspected. The proposed change does not require any plant modifications which affect the performance capability of the structures, systems, and components relied upon to mitigate the consequences of postulated accidents, and has no impact on the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated.

Therefore, the proposed change does not involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated.

2. Does the proposed change create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated?

Response: No.

The proposed change to the CSP implementation schedule is administrative in nature. This proposed change does not alter accident analysis assumptions, add any initiators, or affect the function of plant systems or the manner in which systems are operated, maintained, modified, tested, or inspected. The proposed change does not require any plant modifications which affect the performance capability of the structures, systems, and components relied upon to mitigate the consequences of postulated accidents and

does not create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated.

Therefore, the proposed change does not create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated.

3. Does the proposed change involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety?

Response: No.

Plant safety margins are established through limiting conditions for operation, limiting safety system settings, and safety limits specified in the technical specifications. The proposed change to the CSP implementation schedule is administrative in nature. In addition, the milestone date delay for full implementation of the CSP has no substantive impact because other measures have been taken which provide adequate protection during this period of time. Because there is no change to established safety margins as a result of this change, the proposed change does not involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety.

Therefore, the proposed change does not involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety.

Based on the above, ENO concludes that the proposed change presents no significant hazards consideration under the standards set forth in 10 CFR 50.92(c), and accordingly, a finding of "no significant hazards consideration" is justified.

#### 4.3 Conclusion

In conclusion, based on the considerations discussed above: (1) there is reasonable assurance that the health and safety of the public will not be endangered by operation in the proposed manner; (2) such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations; and (3) the issuance of the amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public.

#### 5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

The proposed amendment provides a change to the CSP implementation schedule. The proposed amendment meets the eligibility criterion for a categorical exclusion set forth in 10 CFR 51.22(c)(12). Therefore, pursuant to 10 CFR 51.22(b), no environmental impact statement or environmental assessment need be prepared in connection with the issuance of the amendment.

#### 6.0 REFERENCES

1. NRC letter to Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc., *Palisades Nuclear Plant - Issuance of Amendment Regarding the Cyber Security Plan: (TAC No. ME4355),* dated July 28, 2011 (ADAMS Accession No. ML111801243)

- 2. NRC Internal Memorandum to Barry Westreich from Russell Felts, *Review Criteria for Title* 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 73.54, Cyber Security Implementation Schedule Milestone 8 License Amendment Requests, dated October 24, 2013 (ADAMS Accession No. ML13295A467)
- 3. NRC letter to Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc., *Palisades Nuclear Plant, Unit 1 Inspection of Temporary Instruction 2201/004, "Inspection of Implementation of Interim Cyber Security Milestones 1–7" Inspection Report 05000255/2015407*, dated October 14, 2015 (ADAMS Accession No. ML15289A409)
- 4. Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc., letter to NRC, *Closure Notification Cyber Security Violations Documented in Inspection of Implementation of Interim cyber Security Milestones 1-7 Inspection Report*, dated March 24, 2016 (ADAMS Accession No. ML16084A074)
- 5. NRC letter to Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc., *Palisades Nuclear Plant Issuance of Amendment Re: Cyber Security Plan Implementation Schedule (CAC No. MF6351)*, dated May 2, 2016 (ADAMS Accession No. ML16078A068)
- 6. Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc., letter to NRC, *Certification of Permanent Cessation of Power Operations*, dated January 4, 2017 (ADAMS Accession No. ML17004A062)
- 7. NRC letter to Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc., *Palisades Nuclear Plant Issuance of Amendment Re: Revised Cyber Security Plan Implementation Schedule Milestone 6 (TAC No. ME8944)*, dated December 5, 2012 (ADAMS Accession No. ML12279A157)
- 8. NRC letter to Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc., *Palisades Nuclear Plant NRC Integrated Inspection Report 05000255/2016004; 05000255/2016501; 07200007/2015001; and 07200007/2016001*, dated February 14, 2017 (ADAMS Accession No. ML17045A709)

#### PNP 2017-007

#### **ATTACHMENT 2**

**Proposed PNP Operating License Changes (mark-up)** (showing proposed changes; additions are highlighted and deletions are strikethrough)

One page follows

D. The facility has been granted certain exemptions from Appendix J to 10 CFR Part 50, "Primary Reactor Containment Leakage Testing for Water Cooled Power Reactors." This section contains leakage test requirements, schedules and acceptance criteria for tests of the leak-tight integrity of the primary reactor containment and systems and components which penetrate the containment. These exemptions were granted in a letter dated December 6, 1989.

These exemptions granted pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12, are authorized by law, will not present an undue risk to the public health and safety, and are consistent with the common defense and security. With these exemptions, the facility will operate, to the extent authorized herein, in conformity with the application, as amended, the provisions of the Act, and the rules and regulations of the Commission.

E. ENO shall fully implement and maintain in effect all provisions of the Commission-approved physical security, training and qualification, and safeguards contingency plans including amendments made pursuant to provisions of the Miscellaneous Amendments and Search Requirements revisions to 10 CFR 73.55 (51 FR 27817 and 27822) and to the authority of 10 CFR 50.90 and 10 CFR 50.54(p). The combined set of plans, which contains Safeguards Information protected under 10 CFR 73.21, is entitled: "Entergy Nuclear Palisades Nuclear Plant Physical Security Plan."

ENO shall fully implement and maintain in effect all provisions of the Commission-approved cyber security plan (CSP), including changes made pursuant to the authority of 10 CFR 50.90 and 10 CFR 50.54(p). The Palisades CSP was approved by License Amendment No. 243 as supplemented by changes approved by License Amendment Nos. 248, 253,-and 259, and XXX.

- F. [deleted]
- G. ENP and ENO shall have and maintain financial protection of such type and in such amounts as the Commission shall require in accordance with Section 170 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, to cover public liability claims.

Renewed License No. DPR-20 Amendment No. <del>254</del>, 259 I

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#### ATTACHMENT 3

**Operating License Page Change Instructions** 

and

**Revised PNP Operating License Pages** 

Two pages follow

,

#### **Page Change Instructions**

#### ATTACHMENT TO LICENSE AMENDMENT NO. 2XX

#### RENEWED FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-20

#### **DOCKET NO. 50-255**

Remove the following page of Renewed Facility Operating License, and replace with the attached revised page. The revised page is identified by amendment number and contains a line in the margin indicating the area of change.

#### REMOVE

#### <u>INSERT</u>

Page 6

Page 6

D. The facility has been granted certain exemptions from Appendix J to 10 CFR Part 50, "Primary Reactor Containment Leakage Testing for Water Cooled Power Reactors." This section contains leakage test requirements, schedules and acceptance criteria for tests of the leak-tight integrity of the primary reactor containment and systems and components which penetrate the containment. These exemptions were granted in a letter dated December 6, 1989.

These exemptions granted pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12, are authorized by law, will not present an undue risk to the public health and safety, and are consistent with the common defense and security. With these exemptions, the facility will operate, to the extent authorized herein, in conformity with the application, as amended, the provisions of the Act, and the rules and regulations of the Commission.

E. ENO shall fully implement and maintain in effect all provisions of the Commission-approved physical security, training and qualification, and safeguards contingency plans including amendments made pursuant to provisions of the Miscellaneous Amendments and Search Requirements revisions to 10 CFR 73.55 (51 FR 27817 and 27822) and to the authority of 10 CFR 50.90 and 10 CFR 50.54(p). The combined set of plans, which contains Safeguards Information protected under 10 CFR 73.21, is entitled: "Entergy Nuclear Palisades Nuclear Plant Physical Security Plan."

ENO shall fully implement and maintain in effect all provisions of the Commission-approved cyber security plan (CSP), including changes made pursuant to the authority of 10 CFR 50.90 and 10 CFR 50.54(p). The Palisades CSP was approved by License Amendment No. 243 as supplemented by changes approved by License Amendment Nos. 248, 253, 259, and XXX.

- F. [deleted]
- G. ENP and ENO shall have and maintain financial protection of such type and in such amounts as the Commission shall require in accordance with Section 170 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, to cover public liability claims.

Renewed License No. DPR-20 Amendment No. <del>259</del>, XXX I

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### **ATTACHMENT 4**

**Revised Cyber Security Plan Implementation Schedule** 

One page follows

	-		
#	Implementation Milestone	Completion Date	Basis
8	Full implementation of <i>Palisades Nuclear Plant</i> ( <i>PNP</i> ) <i>Cyber Security Plan</i> for all safety, security, and emergency preparedness (SSEP) functions will be achieved.	May 31, 2020	By the completion date, the PNP Cyber Security Plan will be fully implemented for all SSEP functions in accordance with 10 CFR 73.54. This date also bounds the completion of all individual asset security control design remediation actions including those that require a refueling outage for implementation.

### Revised Cyber Security Plan Implementation Schedule

#### **ATTACHMENT 5**

List of Revised Regulatory Commitments

One page follows

#### List of Revised Regulatory Commitments

The following table identifies those actions committed to by Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. in this document. Any other statements in this submittal are provided for information purposes and are not considered to be regulatory commitments.

	<b>TYPE</b> (Check One)		SCHEDULED COMPLETION
COMMITMENT	ONE- TIME ACTION	CONTINUING COMPLIANCE	<b>DATE</b> (If Required)
Full implementation of <i>Palisades Nuclear</i> <i>Plant Cyber Security Plan</i> for all safety, security, and emergency preparedness functions will be achieved.	x		May 31, 2020