

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Employment Standards
Administration; Wage and Hour
DivisionMinimum Wages for Federal and
Federally Assisted Construction;
General Wage Determination Decisions

General wage determination decisions of the Secretary of Labor are issued in accordance with applicable law and are based on the information obtained by the Department of Labor from its study of local wage conditions and data made available from other sources. They specify the basic hourly wage rates and fringe benefits which are determined to be prevailing for the described classes of laborers and mechanics employed on construction projects of a similar character and in the localities specified therein.

The determinations in these decisions of prevailing rates and fringe benefits have been made in accordance with 29 CFR Part 1, by authority of the Secretary of Labor pursuant to the provisions of the Davis-Bacon Act of March 3, 1931, as amended (46 Stat. 1494, as amended, 40 U.S.C. 276a) and of other Federal statutes referred to in 29 CFR Part 1, Appendix, as well as such additional statutes as may from time to time be enacted containing provisions for the payment of wages determined to be prevailing by the Secretary of Labor in accordance with the Davis-Bacon Act. The prevailing rates and fringe benefits determined in these decisions shall, in accordance with the provisions of the foregoing statutes, constitute the minimum wages payable on Federal and federally assisted construction projects to laborers and mechanics of the specified classes engaged on contract work of the character and in the localities described therein.

Good cause is hereby found for not utilizing notice and public comment procedure thereon prior to the issuance of these determinations as prescribed in 5 U.S.C. 553 and not providing for delay in the effective date as prescribed in that section, because the necessity to issue current construction industry wage determinations frequently and in large volume causes procedures to be impractical and contrary to the public interest.

General wage determination decisions, and modifications and supersedes decisions thereto, contain no expiration dates and are effective from their date of notice in the **Federal Register**, or on the date written notice is received by the agency, whichever is earlier. These decisions are to be used

in accordance with the provisions of 29 CFR Parts 1 and 5. Accordingly, the applicable decision, together with any modifications issued, must be made a part of every contract for performance of the described work within the geographic area indicated as required by an applicable Federal prevailing wage law and 29 CFR Part 5. The wage rates and fringe benefits, notice of which is published herein, and which are contained in the Government Printing Office (GPO) document entitled "General Wage Determinations Issued Under The Davis-Bacon And Related Acts," shall be the minimum paid by contractors and subcontractors to laborers and mechanics.

Any person, organization, or governmental agency having an interest in the rates determined as prevailing is encouraged to submit wage rate and fringe benefit information for consideration by the Department. Further information and self-explanatory forms for the purpose of submitting this data may be obtained by writing to the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment Standards Administration, Wage and Hour Division, Division of Wage Determinations, 200 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Room S-3014, Washington, D.C. 20210.

**Modifications to General Wage
Determination Decisions**

The number of decisions listed in the Government Printing Office document entitled "General Wage Determinations Issued Under the Davis—Bacon and Related Acts" being modified are listed by Volume and State. Dates of publication in the **Federal Register** are in parentheses following the decisions being modified.

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General Wage Determination Publication

General wage determinations issued under the Davis-Bacon and related Acts,

including those noted above, may be found in the Government Printing Office (GPO) document entitled "General Wage Determinations Issued Under The Davis-Bacon and Related Acts". This publication is available at each of the 50 Regional Government Depository Libraries and many of the 1,400 Government Depository Libraries across the country.

The general wage determinations issued under the Davis-Bacon and related Acts are available electronically by subscription to the FedWorld Bulletin Board System of the National Technical Information Service (NTIS) of the U.S. Department of Commerce at (703) 487-4630.

Hard-copy subscriptions may be purchased from: Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402, (202) 512-1800.

When ordering hard-copy subscription(s), be sure to specify the States(s) of interest, since subscriptions may be ordered for any or all of the seven separate volumes, arranged by State. Subscriptions include an annual edition (issued in January or February) which includes all current general wage determinations for the States covered by each volume. Throughout the remainder of the year, regular weekly updates are distributed to subscribers.

Signed at Washington, DC this 3rd Day Of October 1997.

Carl Poleskey,

Chief, Branch of Construction Wage Determinations.

[FR Doc. 97-26664 Filed 10-9-97; 8:45 am]

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50-255]

In the Matter of Consumers Energy Company (Palisades Plant); Exemption

I

Consumers Energy Company (the licensee) is the holder of Facility Operating License No. DPR-20 which authorizes operation of the Palisades Plant. The Palisades facility is a pressurized-water reactor located at the licensee's site in Van Buren County, Michigan. The license provides, among other things, that the facility is subject to all rules, regulations, and orders of the Commission now or hereafter in effect.

II

Pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12(a), "Specific exemptions," the Commission may

grant exemptions from the requirements of the regulations of this part (1) which 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; and (2) where special circumstances are present.

Section II.G. of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix J, Option A, defines Type B tests as "tests intended to detect local leaks and to measure leakage across each pressure-containing or leakage-limiting boundary * * *," which includes air lock door seals.

Section III.D.2.(b)(ii) of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix J, Option A, requires air locks opened during periods where containment integrity is not required to undergo a full air lock pressure test at the end of such periods.

Section III.D.2.(b)(iii) of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix J, Option A, requires air locks opened during periods where containment integrity is required to undergo a full air lock pressure test within 3 days after being opened.

III

By letters dated January 10, 1996, and February 20, 1997, the licensee requested an exemption from 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix J, Option A, Sections III.D.2.(b)(ii) and III.D.2.(b)(iii), for Type B testing of the emergency escape air lock. Specifically, this exemption would permit the licensee to perform a door seal contact verification check in lieu of the final pressure test required by Appendix J following opening the air lock doors for post-test restoration or seal adjustment.

The exemption request is necessary due to the original design of the emergency escape air lock. During special testing in 1992, the licensee showed that the annulus between the door seals could not be successfully tested without the door strongback installed even at pressures as low as 2 psig. This testing, along with information from the vendor, confirms that between-the-seal pressure testing on the emergency escape air lock doors cannot be properly measured or evaluated if the door strongbacks are not installed. Similarly, the inner door does not fully seal with the reverse-direction pressure of a full air lock pressure test unless the strongback is installed.

Since the removal of the inner door strongback after pressure testing requires the outer door to be opened, a between-the-seals test of the outer door would be required by the regulation. This test would require the installation of a strongback on the outer door. Further, full pressure testing or the pressure induced by the strongback may