

May 28, 2002

Mr. Douglas E. Cooper
Site Vice President
Palisades Plant
27780 Blue Star Memorial Highway
Covert, MI 49043-9530

SUBJECT: PALISADES PLANT - 15-DAY RESPONSE TO BULLETIN 2002-01, "REACTOR PRESSURE VESSEL HEAD DEGRADATION AND REACTOR COOLANT PRESSURE BOUNDARY INTEGRITY" (TAC NO. MB4562)

Dear Mr. Cooper:

On March 18, 2002, the NRC staff issued Bulletin 2002-01, "Reactor Pressure Vessel Head Degradation and Reactor Coolant Pressure Boundary Integrity," to the industry requesting that addressees provide information related to the structural integrity of the reactor coolant pressure boundary, including the reactor pressure vessel head, and the extent to which inspections have been undertaken to satisfy applicable regulatory requirements. Bulletin 2002-01 also required licensees to provide the basis for concluding that plans for future inspections of the reactor coolant pressure boundary will satisfy applicable regulatory requirements at their respective pressurized-water reactor plants. All addressees were requested to respond to Items 1.A. through E. within 15 days of the Bulletin's issuance, or to provide a written response to the NRC in accordance with the provisions of Title 10, Section 50.54(f), of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR 50.54(f)) if they were unable to provide the information or they could not meet the requested completion dates.

You provided your 15-day Bulletin response for Palisades by letter dated April 3, 2002. The NRC staff finds that you have provided the requested information, and concludes that Palisades does not appear to have conditions similar to those which may have led to degradation at Davis Besse. However, the NRC staff may issue questions to confirm or verify the information that was provided in your 15-day response to Bulletin 2002-01.

We will complete a full review of your response to Bulletin 2002-01 after we review your response to Items 2 and 3 of the Bulletin. If you have questions regarding this letter, please contact me at (301) 415-3049 or by e-mail at dsh@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Darl S. Hood, Senior Project Manager, Section 1
Project Directorate III
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-255

cc: See next page

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March 2002