



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

June 18, 2024

Jean A. Fleming
Vice President, Licensing,
Regulatory Affairs, and PSA
Holtec International, LLC
Krishna P. Singh Technology Campus
1 Holtec Boulevard
Camden, NJ 08104

SUBJECT: PALISADES NUCLEAR PLANT - ACCEPTANCE OF REQUESTED LICENSING ACTION RE: AMENDMENT REQUEST TO APPROVE THE BIASI CRITICAL HEAT FLUX CORRELATION FOR USE WITH THE PALISADES MAIN STEAM LINE BREAK ANALYSIS (EPID L-2024-LLA-0071)

Dear Jean Fleming:

By letter dated May 24, 2024 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) package Accession No. ML24145A143), Holtec Decommissioning International, LLC (HDI) submitted a license amendment request (LAR) regarding Palisades Nuclear Plant (PNP). Specifically, the LAR requested the use of the Framatome Inc. Topical Report EMF-2310, Revision 1, Supplement 2P-A, Revision 0, "SRP Chapter 15 Non-LOCA Methodology for Pressurized Water Reactors," for application of the Biasi Critical Heat Flux correlation in the Post-Scram Main Steam Line Break (MSLB) Analysis at PNP. HDI stated in part that this LAR, supports the PNP restart project. Requests that have already been submitted as part of the restart project include a request for exemption¹ from Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), section 50.82(a)(2), a request for a license transfer², an LAR to revise permanently defueled technical specifications (TS) technical requirements³, an LAR to revise permanently defueled TS administrative requirements⁴, and an LAR to revise the PNP Site Emergency Plan and emergency classification scheme⁵.

The purpose of this letter is to provide the results of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff's acceptance review of the above request. In accordance 10 CFR, section 50.90, an application for an amendment to a license (including the TSs) must fully describe the changes requested, and following as far as applicable, the form prescribed for original applications. Section 50.34 of 10 CFR addresses the content of technical information required. This section

¹ Exemption request submitted by letter dated September 28, 2023 (ML23271A140).

² License transfer request submitted by letter dated December 6, 2023 (ML23348A148).

³ Amendment to revise permanently defueled TS submitted by letter dated December 14, 2023 (ML23348A148).

⁴ Amendment to revise the permanently defueled administrative TS submitted by letter dated February 9, 2024 (ML24040A089).

⁵ Amendment to revise the Palisades Nuclear Plant Site Emergency Plan submitted by letter dated May 1, 2024 (ML24122C666).

stipulates that the submittal address the design and operating characteristics, unusual or novel design features, and principal safety considerations.

The acceptance review was performed to determine if there is sufficient technical information in scope and depth to allow the NRC staff to complete its detailed technical safety review. The acceptance review is also intended to identify whether the amendment request application has any readily apparent information insufficiencies in its characterization of the regulatory requirements or the licensing basis of the plant.

The NRC staff has reviewed your application and concluded that it provides technical safety information in sufficient detail to enable the NRC staff to complete its detailed technical safety review. Given the lesser scope and depth of the acceptance review, as compared to the detailed technical safety review, there may be instances in which issues that impact the NRC staff's ability to complete the detailed technical safety review are identified despite completion of an adequate acceptance review. You will be advised of any further information needed to support the NRC staff's detailed technical review by separate correspondence.

With respect to the environmental evaluation, the LAR, submitted by letter dated May 24, 2024, provides information in support of your determination that the LAR meets the criteria for a categorical exclusion in accordance with 10 CFR 51.22(c)(9). However, the NRC has determined that an environmental assessment is the appropriate National Environmental Policy Act analysis to support the NRC's decision on the connected licensing actions needed to restart the facility which are this LAR, the exemption request, the license transfer request, the two LARs associated with the permanently defueled TS, and the LAR to revise the PNP Site Emergency Plan and emergency classification scheme. The NRC staff will send you a copy of the Notice of Intent to Conduct Scoping Process and prepare an Environmental Assessment once it is published in the *Federal Register*.

Based on the information provided in your submittal and discussions during the pre-licensing meeting on March 18, 2024 (ML24089A247), the NRC staff has estimated that it will require approximately 300 hours to complete the safety review for this LAR. With respect to your requested completion schedule of June 30, 2025, the NRC staff believes that it will complete the safety review by then. If the NRC staff determines that the request meets applicable requirements, the issuance and effective dates would be further communicated to you and would depend on the prerequisite conditions for restart, such as review of the other aspects of the PNP reauthorization of power operations effort, including the exemption request, the license transfer request, the two LARs to update the permanently defueled TS, and the LAR to revise the PNP Site Emergency Plan and emergency classification scheme. If there are emergent complexities or challenges in our review that would cause changes to the initial forecasted completion date or significant changes in the forecasted hours, the reasons for the changes, along with the new estimates, will be provided to you via separate correspondence.

J. Fleming

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If you have any questions, please contact the me at (301) 415-6695 or via email at Ngola.Otto@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Ngola Otto, Project Manager
Licensing Projects Branch
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No.: 50-255

cc: Listserv

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