

Palisades Community Advisory Panel

Minutes from January 26, 2022 Meeting

Location: Lake Michigan College – South Haven Campus, virtual via Zoom

Members Present: Rockey Adams, Kyle Boone, Yolanda Brunt, Robert Burr, Mike Chappell, Aaron Cobbs, Scott Corbin, Nick Culp, Kurt Doroh, John Egelhaaf, Greg Gothard, Otto Gustafson, Ken Harrington, Reka Holley, Kate Hosier, Robert Kirk, Barbara Norman, Joe Parman, Gail Patterson-Gladney, Danielle Persky, Geoffrey Rose, Ross Stein, George Stieber, Gary Stock, Kathy Wagaman, Arlandar Washington, Pat Whalen

Members Absent: Cole Brevis, Mike DeGrandchamp, Dave Manson, Thomas McCulloh, Al Pscholka, Peter Ter Louw

Call to Order

Chairman Burr called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Mike Chappell moved to approve the meeting agenda as proposed.

Commissioner Kurt Doroh supported the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Introduction to PCAP

Frank Hardester, Van Buren County Administrator, provided an introduction to the origin of the PCAP, how members of the PCAP were selected, and introduced the chair, Robert Burr, and vice-chair, Commissioner Mike Chappell.

Administrative Business

Introduction of PCAP Members

Present members of the PCAP introduced themselves. Attendees were directed to the online website (<https://www.vanburencountymi.gov/737/Palisades-Community-Advisory-Panel>) for the PCAP to see the full list of PCAP members.

Overview of Governing Principles for PCAP

Sarah Snoeyink provided an overview of how the PCAP operates and expectations for member engagement. Emphasis was placed on the need for members of the PCAP to attend meetings in person in order to remain compliant with the Open Meetings Act. Ms. Snoeyink also shared that those members who miss three consecutive meeting will be automatically removed from the PCAP.

Guidelines for Communication

Sarah Snoeyink where on the County website all meeting materials can be found (<https://www.vanburencountymi.gov/737/Palisades-Community-Advisory-Panel>), as well as the clearinghouse email address to which all PCAP- and Palisades-related communication should be directed.

Presentation by Entergy

Otto Gustafson, Director of Regulatory and Performance Improvement, shared an update on the Palisades Plant operational status and workforce transition. Points of interest included:

- The plant has been safely operating for 463 consecutive days following a refueling outage in 2020.

- The license transfer application to transition the ownership of Palisades, the Palisades decommissioning trust fund, and decommissioning liability from Entergy to Holtec has been approved by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.
- Approximately 260 employees at the Palisades plant will remain employed following termination of plant operations in Phase One of the decommissioning process. Holtec will offer employment to all Phase One employees.
- Talent absorption efforts are ongoing to find positions for other employees within Entergy's service area; approximately 130 employees will be transferred to employment at other Entergy sites.
- Roughly one-quarter of employees at the Palisades Plant will retire following the closure of the plant.
- Discussion followed regarding the loss of tax revenue following the closure of Palisades.

Presentation by Southwest Michigan Planning Commission

John Egelhaff, executive director of Southwest Michigan Planning Commission provided an update on the ongoing Palisades Economic Response Initiative (PERI). This included an overview of the ongoing economic impact study and anticipated findings. Discussion followed regarding the anticipated timing of hiring an Economic Recovery Specialist, the number of contractors who have support the refueling of the Palisades plant approximately every 18 months, the timeline of pursuing funding to support PERI. Carmen Wells Quigg, project manager at the Economic Growth Institute, shared how her team is involved in the PERI and other key players in efforts to collect data for the economic impact study.

Proposed Future Meeting Topics

Chairman Bob Burr announced that Holtec International will be presenting at a PCAP meeting scheduled for April 13 and a meeting featuring the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission would soon be scheduled.

Public Comment Period

The floor was opened for public comment.

Jonathan Byrd, President of the South Central Michigan Area Labor Council, offered thanks to the members of the PCAP on behalf of the local labor movement for their time and service.

Kevin Kamps, employee of Beyond Nuclear, member of the board of Don't Waste Michigan, and member of the advisory board for Citizens for Alternatives to Chemical Contamination, provided a summary of the comments and questions which he had previously submitted through the Zoom chat. These comments and questions addressed concerns about Holtec executing the decommissioning of the Palisades plant, the depths of cleanup for tritium spill, the potential risk associated with the transportation of site waste through the Great Lakes, and the movement of dry-cask storage on the Palisades site away from the lake to a location that meets the NRC's earthquake safety regulations.

Iris Potter, Michigan Safe Energy Future, asked what kind of new businesses have been recruited to settle in the South Haven area in order to mitigate the loss of tax base.

Katheryn Barns shared that she had learned that Holtec has been nuclear dumping waste into the Atlantic Ocean. She asked whether Holtec would do something similar in Lake Michigan. Ms. Barns advocated for a watchdog group that would ensure the NRC does its job to oversight to ensure Holtec does not do in Michigan what they have done on the East Coast. Ms. Barns

also expressed that contamination from the tritium spill should be cleaned up no matter how deep the contamination goes and where the denomination has occurred. Ms. Barnes also requested more information on how the nuclear waste will be removed from the Palisades site.

Adjournment

Commissioner Mike Chappell moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Kurt Doroh supported the motion, and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on April 13, 2022 at 6 p.m. The meeting will be held in person at a location to be determined.