

Palisades Community Advisory Panel

Minutes from March 9, 2022 Meeting

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

Members Present: Rocky Adams, Aaron Cobbs, Al Pscholka, Arlandar Washington, Barbara Norman, Danielle Persky, Dave Manson, Gail Patterson-Gladney, Geoffrey Rose, George Stieber, Greg Gothard, Kate Hosier, Kathy Wagaman, Ken Harrington, Kurt Doroh, Kyle Boone, Mike Chappell, Nick Culp, Pat Whalen, Peter Ter Louw, Robert Burr, Robert Kirk, Ross Stein, Scott Corbin, Thomas McCullough

Members Absent: Cole Brevis, Yolanda Brunt, Mike DeGrandchamp, John Egelhaaf, Otto Gustafson, Reka Holley, Joe Parman, Gary Stock

Call to Order

Chairman Burr called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Kurt Doroh moved to approve the meeting agenda as proposed. Kate Hosier supported the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Ken Harrington moved to approve the meeting minutes for January 23, 2022 as amended. Commissioner Gail Patterson-Gladney supported the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Meeting Procedures Update

Sarah Snoeyink provided an overview of the new meeting technology. Chairman Burr provided clarification regarding public comment periods which included that a member of the public is allotted one comment opportunity per period; community members who do not use their full three minutes of time may not use remaining time later during the period.

Addressing Questions from Previous Meetings

Sarah Snoeyink read aloud responses to questions from previous public comments and questions. This included a clarification of procedures regarding absences, a question regarding the impact of the Palisades closure on Covert Public Schools, ongoing and previous efforts to bring new businesses into the South Haven area, and the impact of the closure on Palisades refueling contractors. Questions regarding environmental concerns were acknowledged and Ms. Snoeyink shared that the environmental questions had been passed to the NRC to be addressed later in the meeting.

Presentation by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)

Rhex Edwards, Senior Health Physicist, U.S. NRC Region III, provided a presentation regarding the NRC's oversight during the decommissioning process of nuclear power plants. The presentation addressed a variety of topics, including defining acceptable radiation level for a decommissioned site, providing an overview of the NRC's role in the decommissioning process, providing a summary of key procedures executed by the NRC during the decommissioning process, and offering an overview of the financial assessment and monitoring process for the Palisades Nuclear Plant trust fund. The full presentation can be found on the County's website: <https://www.vanburencountymi.gov/741/PCAP-Meeting-Materials>.

Discussion and questions by members of the PCAP followed. A full recording of the discussion is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-orSVA5yczU>

The following is a summary of key discussion points follows:

- How will air quality be monitored?
 - Monitoring will continue with systems in place as a part of the environment monitoring required by the NRC.
- Who is responsible for paying for financial deficiencies if the cost of decommissioning activities exceed funds available in the trust fund?
 - The responsibility lies with the license holder; if needed, the NRC may take action in order to address financial deficits. Such action can include pausing the decommissioning process.
- How will the decommissioning trust fund be spent?
 - Different portions of the decommissioning fund are set aside for different activities, which includes radiological decommissioning, spent fuel management, and site restoration.
- Does the NRC feel that the trust fund is adequate?
 - Yes.
- Why is the “cool down period” following plant closure so long?
 - The schedule for decommissioning is determined by the license holder; this decision has been made by Holtec.
- Which business or subsidiary of Holtec will be liable if an accident occurs at the Palisades plant?
 - The license holder is responsible; whichever business is listed on the NRC plant license is liable.
- Have assessments for brown water study or soil contamination study occurred? Is a remedial design in place? Are there federal standards that govern the cleanup of non-radiological pollution?
 - Such studies are a part of the decommissioning process and will be detailed in the license determination plan that will be developed over the coming years and ultimately approved by the NRC. There are federal standards for non-radiological site cleanup, but those are set by other entities like the EPA.
- Who will determine site use following the completion of the decommissioning process?
 - The license holder will determine future site use.
- How long it will take to get results from air and water samples taken at the Palisades site?
 - The timeline can vary depending on whether the test occurs on site, which provides a rapid result, or in an outside lab, which can take up to a couple weeks.
- What is the procedure for notification would be should an exceedance occur in the air monitoring systems?
 - For nonemergency instances, the exceedance would be brought to the attention of the license holder and the instance would be documented and publicly reported. For emergency instances, appropriate responses would be dictated by the Emergency Preparedness Plan.
- How often will dry cask storage be inspected?
 - Inspections on a triannual frequency is required by the NRC’s inspection program. Inspection will continue until all spent fuel is removed from the premise.
- Will the security perimeter change around the plant through the decommissioning process?

- The security plan will be the decision of the plan licensee.
- What is the status of Holtec's intermediate storage application?
 - This question was referred this question to the NRC's public affairs department.
- Is goal to have 25 millirem grams of radiation by 2041 on the Palisades plant site for the air, water, or everything? How does this compare to standard background radiation?
 - Twenty-five millirem is the threshold for unrestricted site use by the NRC. The NRC estimates that the average individual receives 620 millirem of radiation over the year.
- Do employees at Palisades wear radiation monitors?
 - They wear radiological monitors in radiological controlled areas.

The floor was opened for public comment. A full recording of the public comment period is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-orSVA5yczU>

- Kevin Kamps, Radioactive Waste Specialist at Beyond Nuclear and Board Member for Don't Waste Michigan, asked a number of questions and addressed a number of topics, including: asking how the NRC can allow Holtec to handle the decommissioning process for the Palisades plant given the character of the company; the language used by the NRC to describe the purpose of the decommissioning trust fund and that site restoration and spent fuel management are not intended uses of decommissioning trust fund; concern regarding Holtec cutting corners in order to maximize their profits.
 - Holtec has met the NRC's requirements to execute the decommissioning process and that there are benefits to comingling fund uses. The NRC has the ability to revoke exemptions allowing for certain uses of funds if doing so is determined to be necessary.
- Iris Potter, representing Michigan Safe Future in Kalamazoo, asked three questions:
 - What is the NRC requiring to be in place to monitor radiological releases during decommissioning?
 - The criteria are in the NRC's regulations; the annual effluent report submitted by Palisades offers an offsite calculation manual that specializes the values for releases over the past year.
 - What type of staff positions and how many staff members might be on site during the decommissioning process?
 - The NRC did not have this information available at the time.
 - What waste will be shipped and transported off of the site and will this include shipping via barge?
 - Shipping and transporting plans will likely be developed over the future; whichever path is selected must meet Federal Department of Transportation standards. A breakdown of anticipated types of waste is available in the [Post Shutdown Decommissioning Activities Report](#).
- A resident of South Haven Township asked: Do you have an estimated cost for removal of fuel from the reactor and move to safe storage? If Holtec has a budget overrun, where will additional funds come from?
 - The time between shutdown and the removal of fuel is a short period of time and the NRC does not have a breakdown of those funds. The status of the decommissioning fund is reported every year to the NRC; the license holder is responsible for securing funds to make up for the budget shortfall.
- Michael Keegan with Don't Waste Michigan raised concerns about the unloading and transportation of dry cask storage containers and real time radiological monitoring

information and when Don't Waste Michgian, Beyond Nuclear, Safe Energy Futures, and other groups receive the public hearing they requested.

- This question was referred this question to the NRC's public affairs department.
- Ryan Pickering shared several comments in support of the Palisades plant and asked whether the NRC has conducted an environmental impact study looking at the increase in pollution caused by the decommission of the power plant.
 - This question was referred this question to the NRC's public affairs department.
- Isuru Sen with Climate Coalition in New York shared concerns about the loss of carbon-free energy with the closure of Palisades and asked whether anyone has conducted an economic, environmental, or human health study regarding the impact of the Palisades plant's closure.
 - This question was referred this question to the NRC's public affairs department.
- Brian Campbell shared his concern regarding the closure of the Palisades plant and the United State's energy independence.
- Michael Keegan asked whether the NRC could speak to the temporary weld on the reactor head that was authorized for a limited period of time – in particular whether inspections will continue on the weld or if the weld will be repaired before its expiration in June 2022?
 - It was suggested that this question would be best suited at the annual Palisades performance public meeting where the NRC operating inspectors will be available for questions.

Presentation by the Economic Growth Institute (EGI)

Carmen Wells Quigg, Project Manager at EGI, and Sarah Crane, Research Manager at EGI, provided a presentation providing an overview of the ongoing Economic Impact Analysis for the Palisades Economic Recovery Initiative, which included an overview of data used for modeling and a request for other data sources if additional information should be included in the model.

Discussion and questions by members of the PCAP followed; responses to questions were provided by Ms. Wells Quigg and Ms. Crane. A full recording of the discussion is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-orSVA5yczU>

- Why is Allegan County absent from this study?
 - The tri-county area of Cass, Van Buren, and Berrien Counties aligns with the region served by Southwest Michgian Planning Commission.

The floor was opened for public comment and responses. A full recording of the public comment period is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-orSVA5yczU>

- Mr. Kamps if EGI's forthcoming study would look at the radioactive stigma effect on the local economy.
 - The study does not consider the effect at this time.
- Mr. Campbell asked whether EGI had included in the study the amount of emissions that are going to increase to replace Palisades and the amount of emission increase and its economic impact.
 - EGI is looking at the cost of electricity in the area but is not looking at the impact of emissions at this time.
- Mr. Pickering asked about considerations being made for workers that want to maintain their careers in clean energy?

- EGI is working with Kinexus Group and Market Van Buren to coordinate efforts to address the needs of members of the community. Further explanation of ongoing efforts will be provided in the future if possible.

General Public Comment

The floor was opened for general public comment. A full recording of the public comment period is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-orSVA5yczU>

- Mr. Kamps shared his perspective on the status New Mexico Holtec consolidated waste storage facility and related court cases. Mr. Kamps also requested an update on the public hearing associated with the intervention Beyond Nuclear had filed last year with the NRC.
- Mr. Campbell shared his opinion of Beyond Nuclear.

Adjournment

Kate Hosier moved to adjourn the meeting. Al Pscholka supported the motion, and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on April 13, 2022 at 6 p.m. The meeting will be held in person at Lake Michigan College in South Haven.

Robert Burr, Chairman

Date