

Questions Referred to NRC's Public Affairs Office

Link to meeting recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-orSVA5yczU>

Time codes below coordinate with video linked above.

1:06:44 | What is the status of Holtec's intermediate storage application?

- The NRC staff expects to publish a revised schedule for the completion of its safety review, environmental review, and final licensing decision approximately 30 days after it receives responses to requests for additional information sent to the licensee on March 23, 2022 (ADAMS Accession No. ML22062B669).

1:24:37 | 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 Michigan, Beyond Nuclear, Safe Energy Futures, and other groups receive the public hearing they requested.

- Given the reference in your letter to the Palisades license transfer proceeding, it would be inappropriate for the NRC staff to comment at this time. The Palisades license transfer application is the subject of a contested adjudication pending before the Commission, and the Commission must remain impartial during the pendency of the adjudication.

1:30:34 | Ryan Pickering shared several comments in favor and 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 decommissioning of the power plant.

- Decommissioning impacts are considered bounded (see 1988 and 1996 Decommissioning rules) by the construction impacts addressed in the CP FES and/or license renewal SEIS for Palisades. In addition, the Decommissioning GEIS describes air emissions, liquid and solid waste generation, and other pollution-generating activities during decommissioning for all nuclear plants. These types of polluting activities are regulated by state agencies.
- After nuclear plant shutdown, licensees are required to submit a post-shutdown decommissioning activities report (PSDAR) to the NRC describing planned decommissioning activities, their potential environmental impact (e.g., "increased pollution"), and providing the basis for why the impacts are bounded by the impacts addressed in previously issued environmental impact statements. If there are unbounded environmental impacts, the licensee must then either (1) change the planned decommissioning activities so that their impacts are bounded or would not otherwise have a potential significant environmental impact, or (2) submit, and have approved, either a license amendment request (LAR) or an exemption request with respect to the specific decommissioning activity.
- Decommissioning is not considered a federal action requiring an NRC NEPA review. Decommissioning impacts are assumed to be bounded by the construction impacts addressed in the CP FES and/or license renewal SEIS for Palisades. In addition, the Decommissioning GEIS describes air emissions, liquid and solid waste generation, and other pollution-related activities during decommissioning at all nuclear plants. These types of polluting activities are regulated by state agencies.

1:32:20 | Isuru Sen with Climate Coalition in New York shared concerned 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.

- The NRC does not evaluate the loss of carbon-free energy caused by the closure of a nuclear power plant. The closure of a commercial nuclear power plant is a business decision made by the licensee. There are no licensing or regulatory requirements for the licensee to involve the NRC in the decision to close the nuclear plant.

1:36:05: 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?

- No further examinations or additional relief is required to address these repair welds as the plant will be permanently shutdown, ceasing power operations, by the expiration date of the authorized proposed alternative RR 5-8. On October 1, 2020 (ADAMS Accession No. ML20275A343), the NRC staff verbally authorized the use of proposed alternative RR 5-8 at Palisades for one cycle of operation, not to exceed 20 months of operation or May 31, 2022, when Palisades will permanently cease power operations (See letters from Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. (Entergy, or the licensee) dated September 28, 2017, and October 19, 2017 (ADAMS Accession Nos. ML17271A233 and ML17292A032). On January 19, 2021, the NRC staff issued a written safety evaluation supporting the verbal authorization (ADAMS Accession No. ML20365A001).