

Media Advisory

Palisades Nuclear Power Plant 20 Year License Extension on Trial

Contact:

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WHAT: Phone-in press briefing the day before the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Atomic Safety Licensing Board (ASLB) convenes an official adjudicatory hearing in South Haven, Michigan. The ASLB panel, comprised of three administrative law judges, will review contentions filed by scores of local concerned citizen intervenors and numerous grassroots environmental and public interest organizations. The growing coalition opposes the 20 year license extension sought by Consumers Energy/CMS and Nuclear Management Company (a Hudson, Wisconsin-based limited liability corporation) for the Palisades nuclear reactor in Covert, Michigan on the Lake Michigan shoreline.

WHEN: The phone-in press briefing will begin at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, November 2, 2005.

WHERE/HOW: Media can take part in the phone-in press briefing by calling, toll-free, **1-888-276-4201**, then entering the **passcode 83687 #** (be sure to enter the # sign). Please be sure to announce your name and your affiliation when you join the call.

WHO: The phone-in press briefing will feature three speakers:

Kevin Kamps, NIRS, who will moderate the briefing and speak about the unsafe status of the mounting outdoor dry cask storage of high-level radioactive wastes at Palisades. Kamps will also speak about apparent efforts by the NRC to silence retired NRC dry cask storage inspector Ross Landsman, to intimidate him against serving as an expert witness on behalf of the petitioners by threatening five years imprisonment and \$50,000 in fines.

Alice Hirt, Don't Waste Michigan, a citizen intervenor residing in Holland, Michigan, will speak about the potential catastrophic impacts downwind and downstream should Palisades' highly embrittled reactor vessel rupture and radiation containment fail.

Gordon Edwards, Ph.D., President of the Canadian Coalition for Nuclear Responsibility based in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, an internationally-recognized expert on nuclear power issues, will speak about the dangers of age-related degradation of reactors, and the threat to the entire Great Lakes Basin presented by dangerously-deteriorated reactors such as Palisades, and by the growing inventory of high-level radioactive wastes near the shores of the Great Lakes.

Each speaker will speak for 3 to 4 minutes. After all three have spoken, the floor will be opened to questions from the media. Kevin Kamps from NIRS will moderate the question and answer period.

BACKGROUND:

The NRC ASLB will convene a day-long hearing beginning at 9 a.m., Thursday, Nov. 3, 2005 at the Conference Room of the Ramada Inn Lighthouse and Conference Center, 1555 Phoenix Road, South Haven, Michigan. Intervenors against the Palisades license extension regard this industry-friendly NRC proceeding as largely legalistic and rigged in favor of the nuclear utility.

Thus, more importantly, **the administrative law judges will accept public comments from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the same location. Concerned citizens and organizations will attend and express their opposition to the dangerous Palisades 20 year license extension.** Intervenors regard this hard-won public comment period as an opportunity to sound the alarm to the media, larger community, and elected officials about the danger of operating the highly embrittled Palisades reactor till the year 2031.