

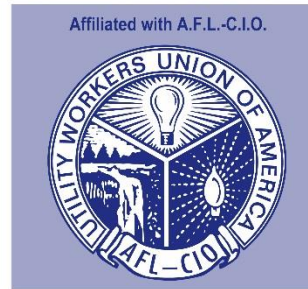
UTILITY WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA

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May 22, 2023

Governor Gretchen Whitmer  
P.O Box 30013  
Lansing, MI 48909

*In Re: Michigan Support for the Renewed Operation of the Palisades Nuclear Generating Station*

Dear Governor Whitmer,

We write today in support of Michigan's effort to aid Holtec International in the process of re-starting and operating the Palisades Nuclear Generating Station in Covert Township Michigan. The Utility Workers Union of America (UWUA) is the union which represented the workforce at Palisades prior to its decommissioning and continues to represent those who remain. In addition, the UWUA represents 45,000 workers in the electric, gas, and water utility sectors across the country.

For decades, Palisades generated more than 800 megawatts of safe, reliable, and carbon-free electricity – enough to power 800,000 Michigan homes – and did so with an online reliability factor greater than 95 percent. Prior to decommissioning, Palisades provided around 600 full-time, highly skilled jobs with an annual payroll of \$70 million.

Although the plant has maintained more than 200 members of its pre-shutdown workforce for the decommissioning process, repowering Palisades would permanently return hundreds of full-time jobs to the site, many of which would be high-road, union jobs.

Repowering Palisades is an historic opportunity to ensure Michigan has clean and reliable generation to meet its climate goals, while keeping the lights on for families and businesses and spurring the creation of high-paying, permanent jobs and economic opportunities. Thanks to your leadership, what was once thought unlikely may soon be reality, solidifying Michigan's role as an energy leader.

Naturally, this does raise a key point. Our support for Holtec receiving state assistance must be predicated on the power generated by Palisades in the future being sold into the Michigan electricity market – preferably via a power purchase agreement with a Michigan utility – rather than exported out-of-state. To us, Michigan power must assist Michigan and its taxpayers, ratepayers, workers, and industries in achieving their own clean energy goals. Harnessing this tremendous Michigan resource only to have the power used in furtherance of clean energy goals in surrounding states would, in our estimation, be a disservice to the workers, taxpayers and ratepayers in the state.

Funding from the state of Michigan is essential to the Palisades restart as Holtec advances its application through the U.S. Department of Energy's Loan Program Office for federal loan funding that will be reinvested in plant equipment and


system reliability. The proposed grant funding from Michigan is critical to support other immediate restart costs including the purchase of new fuel for the reactor, hiring and retaining a talented workforce during repowering while the plant does not have a revenue stream from its generation, and providing training for licensed operators and other technical staff.

Environmentally, Palisades long provided clean, reliable power for Michigan consumers and businesses. The plant's operation supported Michigan's goal to cut carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions, thereby reducing environmental and human health risks.

On safety, Palisades ranked in the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's highest safety category and was recognized by the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations as a top-performing plant. Palisades strictly adhered to all federal and state regulations and operated under the oversight of the NRC. The health and safety of the workforce, community and environment were always the station's highest priorities.

In conclusion, we urge you to support Holtec's need for state funding as a means for returning high-quality jobs, community-supporting revenue, and safe, carbon-free power to Michigan ratepayers. Given the gravity of climate change's potential impacts, none of us can afford to have a key player such as Palisades on the sidelines. It's time to get this Michigan workhorse back in the game.

Sincerely,



James T. Slevin  
National President  
Utility Workers Union of America, AFL-CIO

cc: U.S. Department of Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm  
Michigan Senate Majority Leader Winnie Brinks  
Michigan Speaker of the House Joe Tate  
Michigan Senate Appropriations Committee Chair Sen. Sarah Anthony  
Michigan House Appropriations Committee Chair Rep. Angela Witwer