

CONGRESSMAN BYRON DONALDS

LEADS

**LETTER SEEKING TO EXPEDITE
THE REVITALIZATION &
REPOWERING OF PALISADES
NUCLEAR POWER PLANT**



LETTER **SUMMARY**

**ADVOCATING FOR THE HISTORIC
MODERNIZATION & REOPENING OF
PALISADES NUCLEAR POWER
PLANT WITH SAFE, RELIABLE, &
EFFICIENT NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY**

**REINVIGORATING COMMUNITIES WITH NEW REVENUE
OFFERING PRACTICAL, LONG-TERM ENERGY SOLUTIONS
ADVANCING AMERICAN ENERGY INDEPENDENCE**



Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 24, 2024

The Honorable Shuwanza Goff
Director of Legislative Affairs
The White House, West Wing
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20502

Dear Director Goff:

We write today to ask that the Department of Energy Loan Programs Office (“DOE LPO”) expedite its review of the loan application recently submitted by Holtec International to revitalize and repower the Palisades Nuclear Power Plant (“Palisades” or “the Plant”). As you know, Palisades provided safe and reliable electricity to Southwest Michigan for [over 50 years](#) prior to the Plant prematurely closing in May 2022 for reasons relating to adverse financial viability. However, on October 6, 2023, Holtec International formally began the licensing process with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (“NRC”) to [revitalize](#) the Plant—a feat that has never been accomplished in American history. Thus, we urge DOE LPO to act in an expedited manner in the case at hand to achieve this attainable, yet unprecedented first-of-a-kind (FOAK) nuclear moment.

In our view, there’s several overarching reasons why DOE LPO should approach the process of reviewing Holtec International’s loan application to repower the Palisades in an expedited fashion. To begin, DOE LPO is authorized to issue loan guarantees, pursuant to Title 17 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, to finance [large-scale energy infrastructure](#) projects in the United States that utilize new or improved technology to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. For the application at hand, Holtec International seeks to reinsert approximately [800 MWe](#) back onto Michigan’s electric grid by revitalizing the Plant’s already-existing infrastructure and systems that [remain](#) “well maintained” and in “excellent material condition.” Also noteworthy is the fact that the contract to repower the Palisades contains a contract-expansion provision to allow for the subsequent installation of up to two NRC-licensed [small modular reactors](#) (“SMRs”)—of which would eliminate nearly 7 million tons of CO2 emissions each year.

Moreover, repowering the Palisades would directly result in the flow of millions of additional tax dollars to local Michigan communities and the State of Michigan as a whole, plus this revitalization effort would create over [\\$500 million dollars](#) in secondary economic activity in the area surrounding the Plant. DOE LPO should also recognize that repowering the Palisades has sparked the interest of local, state, and federal governments alike. In fact, the State of Michigan recently provided [\\$150 million](#) to assist with repowering the Plant—which further illustrates the need for expedited application review at the federal level.

In the same regard, DOE LPO has historically provided over [\\$35 billion](#) in debt financing for domestic energy infrastructure projects, and allocating funding for Holtec International’s effort to repower the Palisades echoes the spirit and satisfies the intention of DOE LPO’s loan guarantee authority. Furthermore, DOE LPO has approximately \$250 billion in outstanding loan authority for 1706 energy infrastructure reinvestment projects. Thus, expedited application review in the case of the Palisades—and other nuclear-related applications submitted to DOE LPO—will help lay the foundation and ignite the upcoming nuclear renaissance in the United States and around the globe.

Therefore, we urge DOE LPO to review Holtec International’s loan application to repower the Palisades in an expedited manner and accelerated fashion. We believe that repowering the Plant is a practical, long-term solution to bolster electric reliability in Michigan, and speeding up the application review process to support the FOAK effort to

repower the Palisades is a worthwhile endeavor. DOE LPO must recognize the importance of expeditiously reviewing nuclear-related loan applications, not just for Holtec International, but for the entire American nuclear industry. We must collectively take advantage of this opportunity to unleash American nuclear innovative potential and capitalize on the unprecedented economic opportunity associated with repowering retired or soon-to-be-retired compatible energy facilities. In turn, successful Plant revitalization will send a strong message throughout the world that such a historic feat is possible, while reducing financial risk associated with similar revitalization efforts and simultaneously paving the way for future domestic advanced nuclear deployment opportunities.

In sum, we look forward to monitoring the status of Holtec International's DOE LPO application to ultimately repower the Palisades. Thank you for taking our thoughts into consideration.

Sincerely,



Byron Donalds (FL-19)
Member of Congress



Troy Nehls (TX-22)
Member of Congress



John Rose (TN-06)
Member of Congress



Randy Weber (TX-14)
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Jennifer Granholm
Secretary, United States Department of Energy

The Honorable Christopher Hanson
Chairman, United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission