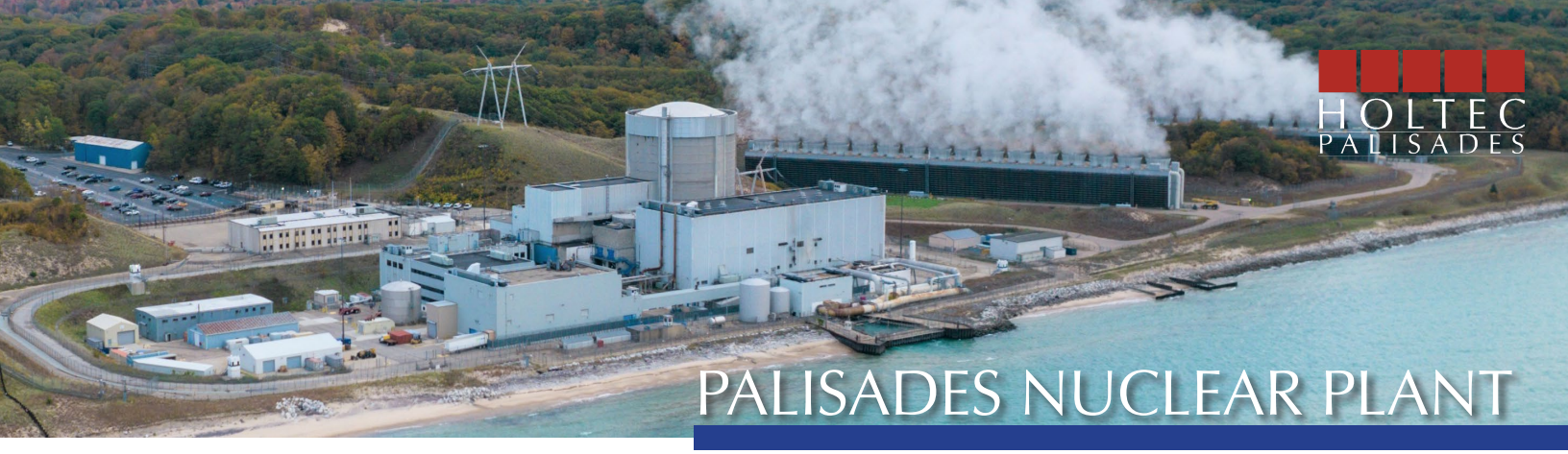


HOLTEC PALISADES

PALISADES NUCLEAR PLANT

Overview

Holtec International's Palisades Nuclear Power Plant is a single-unit pressurized water reactor (PWR) located in Covert Township, Michigan, on the shoreline of Lake Michigan. The plant generates approximately 805 megawatts of reliable, carbon-free electricity – enough to power more than 800,000 homes. It also serves as a major economic engine, supporting hundreds of high-skilled jobs, regional economic growth, and tax revenue that helps fund vital public services.

INITIAL CONSTRUCTION

Palisades was conceived during the expansion of U.S. civilian nuclear generation in the 1960s. Construction began in 1967, and the plant moved through testing and licensing milestones into the early 1970s. The plant began commercial operation on December 31, 1971.

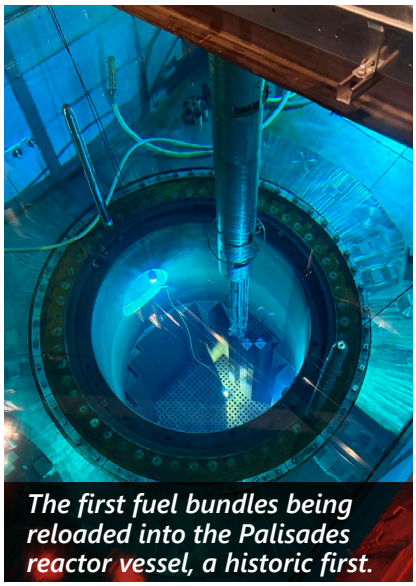


DECADES OF GENERATION

For more than five decades, Palisades provided safe and reliable electricity to the region, supporting grid reliability in Michigan and the broader Midwest and avoiding 4.7 million tons of CO_2 emissions from entering the atmosphere each year, equivalent to taking more than 900,000 cars off the road.

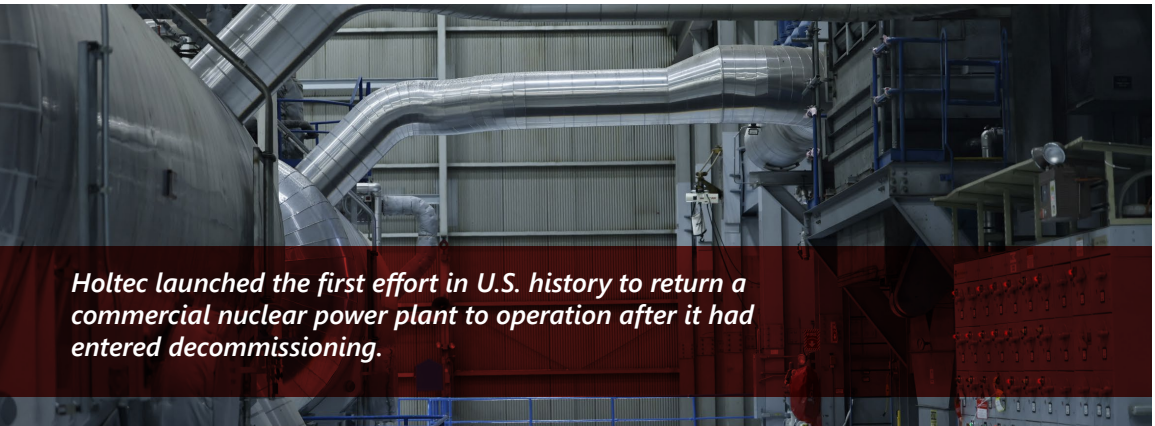
Following a 20-year extension application, the operating license was extended to 2031. Initially owned by Consumers Energy and later operated by the Nuclear Management Company, the plant was sold to Entergy in 2007 under a power purchase agreement that extended to 2022. Following another decade of successful operation, Entergy announced in 2016 that the plant would close in 2022 as the company exited wholesale nuclear generation.

Palisades ceased operations in May 2022 and was sold to Holtec for decommissioning later that June.



The first fuel bundles being reloaded into the Palisades reactor vessel, a historic first.





Holtec launched the first effort in U.S. history to return a commercial nuclear power plant to operation after it had entered decommissioning.



Decision to Restart

Growing demand for reliable, carbon-free electricity, together with broad bipartisan support at the federal, state, and local levels, created an opportunity to preserve one of Michigan's largest sources of around-the-clock generation. Holtec announced plans to return Palisades to service, launching the first effort in U.S. history to restart a commercial U.S. nuclear power plant after it had entered decommissioning.

The project is supported by a $1.52 billion loan guarantee from the U.S. Department of Energy, a $300 million grant from the State of Michigan, long-term power purchase agreements with Wolverine Power Cooperative and Hoosier Energy, and significant investment by Holtec International.

Working alongside experienced nuclear professionals, skilled trades, labor partners, and long-time suppliers, the Holtec Palisades team developed and executed a comprehensive plan to restore the plant and position it to provide safe, reliable, and carbon-free electricity for decades to come.



Palisades set up a large-scale cleaning system in the main parking lot as part of the steam generator maintenance project.





RESTART ACTIVITIES

To prepare for restart, the plant underwent comprehensive inspection, testing upgrades and maintenance activities. Some key restart projects include:

- **Rebuilt a permanent workforce of 600+ nuclear professionals and brought 1,500+ contractors on site.**
- **Completed extensive inspections and maintenance activities on the reactor vessel to verify reliability.**
- **Performed 300+ in-service inspections to ensure the reliability of components that maintain pressure.**
- **Completed major component refurbishment and replacement including reconditioning of primary coolant pump motors.**
- **Received new fuel and transferred spent fuel to dry storage casks.**
- **Inspected and cleaned steam generators, sleeving tubes that required repair.**
- **Restored the electrical infrastructure in preparation for reconnecting to the electric grid.**

REGULATORY PROCESS AND SUCCESSFUL RESTART

Returning Palisades to service required extensive inspections, testing, maintenance, licensing actions, and operational readiness activities. Throughout the restart project, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission maintained oversight through inspections, more than 20 public meetings, and formation of the Palisades Restart Panel.

In July 2025, the NRC approved Holtec's request to transition Palisades from decommissioning oversight back to the Reactor Oversight Process, restoring the plant's operating basis. In August 2025, the plant formally returned to operating status, allowing new nuclear fuel to be delivered to the site.

Following completion of major restoration work, maintenance, testing, inspections, and operational readiness activities, Palisades will synchronize to the electric grid and once again begin generating carbon-free electricity.



Holtec has announced plans to co-locate two SMR-300 units (Pioneer Units 1 & 2) at Palisades, which demonstrates Holtec's unique ability to bridge legacy and next-gen nuclear.

For additional information and the press kit, please visit palisadespower.com.