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**STUDY REVEALS LOW LOCAL DEATH RATES EXCEED STATE RATES
SINCE PALISADES ATOMIC REACTOR STARTUP**

*Van Buren County also has highest death rate for all cancers combined
of the 34 most populated Michigan counties*

Covert, MI--The results of a detailed investigation released today reveal potential health hazards from radioactive emissions for residents near Entergy's Palisades atomic reactor. The study, **NUCLEAR CONTAMINATION AND HEALTH RISKS FROM THE ENTERGY PALISADES NUCLEAR REACTOR**, was written by Joseph Mangano, MPH, MBA, Executive Director of the Radiation & Public Health Project, and is based on state and federal government health data, as well as documented radioactivity releases and contamination levels.

Mangano's main findings include that the Van Buren County death rate from all causes was 3 to 6 percent below the state in the 1970s and early 1980s, but has risen since, to a level 12.5% greater than Michigan (2003-2010). This change suggests that 1,330 "excess" deaths have occurred in the county since the Palisades atomic reactor started operating in 1971. Elevated levels were observed for all age groups (especially children/young adults), both genders, and all major causes of death.

Mangano also reported that the Van Buren County death rate for all cancers combined was 10.5% below the Michigan rate in the 1970s, but is now 12.0% above the state (2005-2010). This rate is the highest of the 34 most populated Michigan counties.

The Palisades atomic reactor on the Lake Michigan shoreline has been in operation since 1971, making it the 9th oldest of the 100 still operating U.S. reactors. Over 1.3 million persons live within 50 miles of Palisades. Chicago also draws its drinking water from Lake Michigan, into which Palisades has discharged radioactivity for 42 years.

"For those of us living nearby, this report raises startling and alarming questions," said Bette Pierman, a founder of Michigan Safe Energy Future who resides in Benton Harbor, 12 miles south of Palisades. "We need public health alerts, like pollen or

weather alerts, when radioactivity is released from Palisades into our air and Lake Michigan,” she added.

“We object to the misleading mantra repeated by Entergy and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, that there is ‘absolutely no risk’ from the radioactivity released by Palisades,” said Kevin Kamps of Beyond Nuclear, a Kalamazoo native. “The National Academy of Sciences has affirmed for decades that any exposure to ionizing radioactivity, no matter how small, still carries a health risk for cancer, and that these risks accumulate over a lifetime.”

Other major findings of the report include:

- Palisades stores massive amounts of high-level radioactive waste, mostly in a waste pool of water that must be constantly cooled to avoid a fire;
- Palisades operated 93.5% of the time between 2006 and 2011, which means the aging and corroding reactor parts are being pushed to their maximum;
- A 2006 report concluded that of 200 “near-miss” accidents at U.S. reactors from 1986 to 2006, four occurred at Palisades, among the highest of any U.S. reactor. Another five potentially harmful incidents occurred since 2010;
- A 1982 federal estimate of 16,700 radiation poisoning cases and 13,000 cancer deaths after a meltdown to the Palisades reactor core would be greater today, due to higher population and effects beyond the study’s geographic limits;
- From 2001 to 2007, sharp increases in releases from Palisades for several types of airborne and liquid radioactivity were observed in data compiled by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency;
- In the late 1990s, the latest data available, tritium levels in Lake Michigan at South Haven (near Palisades) exceeded those of most U.S. reactors.

The full report, commissioned and endorsed by Beyond Nuclear, Don’t Waste Michigan, Michigan Safe Energy Future, and Nuclear Energy Information Service, may be downloaded at www.beyondnuclear.org.