Is Palisades Safe?

The field of Evaluation uses "claims and evidence" to support conclusions as to whether or not something is working or worthwhile. I’d like to apply those principles to the question of whether or not Palisades is safe. Entergy and the NRC claim that it is.

But let’s look at the evidence.

**There are five permanent indicators. They are conditions that cannot be changed.**

1. Entergy is in the business of making money not in community well-being. Entergy's primary responsibility is to its shareholders not to the community.
2. Palisades is very old and getting older every day. It has already passed its life span. One cannot turn back the calendar when it comes to aging.
3. The Palisades reactor is the most embrittled in the country. That cannot be changed except by annealment. But that’s not logical. I ask: what foundry would be willing to accept such a large piece of radioactive equipment and heat it up to 1400 degrees? In fact then, the present vessel is left to become more embrittled every day.
4. Thousands of spent fuel rods are being stored on site and the number continually grows. There is no national repository for long-term storage so the current policy is to have plants store waste on site. There is no change on the horizon.
5. NRC personnel are on site, but they cannot do anything about the age of the plant or spent fuel rods or even dictate what Entergy should do. They can only deal with day-to-day dashboard readings and file reports. Further, the NRC is bound by administrative code. It can only go so far.

**There are three temporary indicators. They are conditions that can be changed.**

1. Employee morale is low. That can be mitigated if management changes its approach to employee culture. But so far that has not happened. A cultural change at Entergy would have to start with management style at the top. But Entergy executives don't appear interested. Aren't they the ones selling off their Entergy stock?
2. Tritium leaks into Lake Michigan could be halted. We've heard time and time again from Palisades and NRC personnel that the water in Lake Michigan dilutes tritium to safe levels. But wait a minute! Dilution is a PR term. In reality, the actual word should be "concentration". With each leak, Lake Michigan is actually increasing its concentration of tritium.
3. Equipment failures are often reported in the press. They can be fixed. However spending money on maintenance decreases Entergy's profits.

Is Palisades safe? The evidence is clear. Palisades is **not** safe and is a disaster waiting to happen. **Palisades must be shut down.**

Barbara Pellegrini  
4022 Evergreen Lane (within the 10 mile evacuation radius)  
Benton Harbor Michigan 49022