

Holtec Should Not Be Paid To Restart Palisades While Safe Campbell Plant is Scheduled for Closure and Demolition

Holtec has a long history of transgressing safety laws and rules, and it is thus dangerous it be given the significant responsibility and challenge associated with starting up an aged nuclear reactor previously decommissioned.¹ This is not something you want a rogue actor involved with. Nuclear energy is great if properly done, but a nightmare like Chernobyl if improperly done.² This could have negative consequences in Michigan far beyond the actual plant site if things go wrong.

Holtec has come under negative scrutiny related to its decommissioning operations, which are far less challenging than restarting a previously decommissioned aged nuclear plant that should be safe, reliable, and economical. Consider these examples of Holtec unethical management of decommissioning operations:

"A Holtec critic said the NRC's action supports concerns over the firm's decommissioning ventures. "This must have been a serious security failure, for NRC to take the very rare action of levying a \$150,000 fine," said Kevin Kamps at Beyond Nuclear, a Maryland-based group that opposes atomic power and weapons. "It is very disturbing that a rogue corporate operator like Holtec is screwing up on security," he added in a statement."³

“The Public objects to Holtec’s release of radioactive wastewater from Indian Point into the Hudson River Riverkeeper joins call for storing tritium-contaminated water in tanks on site while seeking a safe disposal method UPDATED to reflect Holtec’s decision to “pause” its plans to discharge wastewater in early May. Holtec International, the firm responsible for decommissioning the Indian Point nuclear power plant, has stated that it will resume discharging radioactive wastewater into the Hudson River from a spent fuel pool on the site...⁴

Re-use of the Palisades area for electric generation makes sense, but this shady company with its current plan does not make sense. Something as sensitive as nuclear energy should not be managed by a rogue actor.

Citizens Consulting Group LLC, which spearheads the “Save The Campbell” campaign, will not take this lying down, since this represents a danger to all of West Michigan for such a rogue actor to be engaged in this misconceived project the way it is. We recommend the following to all parties concerned: First and foremost, the Campbell plant should not be closed, which decreases pressure for Palisades to be quickly restarted. Whatever is done at the Palisades site, must be carefully done, and not under significant time pressure. We have indicated how we advise and plan to stop the closure of the Campbell plant in May 2025. Second, Holtec is not the party that should be doing it. Third, Berrien County should become a home rule charter county and force Holtec to sell its Palisades facility to a more responsible party in the industry. In the meantime, Berrien County should apply its current legal powers to encourage the sale. Fourth, Berrien County should form a committee of local representatives and experts to explore what should be done with the Palisades facility. Fifth, other Michigan counties should apply pressure on Berrien County to do what is right.

What can individual citizens do? Please help the effort for Ottawa County to become a home rule charter county and Save The Campbell, which can serve as a good example for many other counties in Michigan to follow suit. [We are working on getting at least 12,000 registered petition signers](#) right now so it can get on the ballot in Ottawa County. We need the help of many to make that a reality. Then start working to do the same in your own county of residence. Finally, encourage all such counties to form an association of constitutional counties to stand against the swamps in Washington, DC and Lansing.

¹ <https://savethecampbell.com/a-comparison-of-the-palisades-option-versus-the-campbell-option-the-campbell-option-is-the-hands-down-winner/>

² https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chernobyl_disaster

³ <https://www.courierpostonline.com/story/news/2021/12/22/nrc-nuclear-regulatory-commission-holtec-oyster-creek-security-violations/8995100002/>

⁴ <https://www.riverkeeper.org/blogs/indian-point-blogs/public-objects-to-holtecs-release-of-radioactive-wastewater-from-indian-point/>