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The Honorable Mike Braun

Governor, State of Indiana
200 W. Washington Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Re: Great Lakes Compact Withdrawal Approval, Pioneer Units 1 and 2, NRC Docket Nos. 50-616 and 50-617, NRC-2026-0265

Dear Governor Braun:

Indiana's Lake Michigan shoreline supports a commercial and recreational fishing industry, agricultural water supplies, and the drinking water systems of communities including Gary, Hammond, and Michigan City, all of which depend on the same Lake Michigan water body into which Pioneer Units 1 and 2 propose to discharge 1,380 megawatts of continuous waste heat into the ecosystems including air without completing the environmental review and from current visible documentation with obtaining the Compact approval federal law requires.

Holtec International's Pioneer Units 1 and 2 propose to withdraw 36 million gallons per day from Lake Michigan without the Great Lakes Compact approval federal law requires and before the environmental review covering those impacts exists.

As a Technologist, I am acutely aware that in any complex system deployment, there is a required sequence which product managers and cybersecurity professionals follow. Prerequisites must be satisfied before the next phase begins. You do not deploy before you test. You do not build before the foundation analysis is complete. You do not authorize construction before the environmental review exists. The production-level impacts of skipping prerequisites are devastating.

The NRC has defined a legal order of operations for nuclear reactor deployment codified in 10 CFR Part 50 and 10 CFR Part 51.

The required sequence for this deployment:

1. File Environmental Report meeting 10 CFR 51.45 specification.

2. NRC prepares Environmental Impact Statement.
3. Draft EIS published for public comment.
4. Final EIS issued.
5. LWA issued.
6. Construction begins.

What is actually happening:

1. Environmental Report filed December 31, 2025. Four chapters. Construction impacts only.
2. NRC called it comprehensive February 27, 2026.
3. NRC initiated the EIS it should have had before acceptance: June 15, 2026.
4. NRC issued excavation wall exemption August 28, 2026. Construction begins.
5. Draft EIS: fall 2026. Not yet published.
6. Final EIS: after public comment on the draft. Does not exist.
7. LWA requested: December 31, 2026. Before the final EIS exists.

Steps 4 and 6 in the actual sequence occurred before steps 3, 5, and 6 in the required sequence were complete. Construction is beginning before the environmental review exists. This is not a procedural technicality. It is a fundamental violation of the prerequisite chain that protects public safety and environmental integrity.

The Palisades implementation is the national deployment template. How order of operations is handled in this proceeding sets the precedent for every subsequent SMR-300 deployment across the country. If construction authorization is granted before the required environmental review exists and before Great Lakes Compact approval is obtained, that sequence becomes the standard.

The attached letter has the full details on the withdrawal of 36 million gallons per day and the request for you to confirm whether Compact approval has been sought and to withhold it until the full environmental review is complete. One of my biggest supporters and followers came from Indiana and that woman inspires me daily as she fights for her kid to have a healthy environment to grow up in and often leads the charge on tough topics. I enjoyed driving through your state this last year and appreciated the scenery of your beautiful roads.

Respectfully submitted,

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Petitioner, Pro Se, NRC Docket Nos. 50-616 and 50-617

Primary Source References:

Environmental Report, ADAMS ML25365A988: nrc.gov/docs/ML2536/ML25365A988.html
Full Application Package, ADAMS ML25365A983: nrc.gov/docs/ML2536/ML25365A983.html
NRC Acceptance Notice, 91 FR 9892 (February 27, 2026):
federalregister.gov/documents/2026/02/27/2026-03943
NRC EIS Notice of Intent, 91 FR 36015 (June 15, 2026):
federalregister.gov/documents/2026/06/15/2026-11915
NRC Exemption Issued August 28, 2026: federalregister.gov/documents/2026/08/28/2026-17626
Public Law 110-342, Great Lakes Compact: congress.gov/110/plaws/publ342/PLAW-110publ342.pdf
10 CFR 51.76(b): ecfr.gov/current/title-10/chapter-I/part-51/subpart-A/subject-group-ECFR900488578baa903/section-51.76

