

Environment & Energy

# Entergy Nuke Plant's Future in Michigan Hinges on Federal Funds

By Zach Bright

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Michigan is applying for funds from the Biden administration's \$6 billion effort unveiled Tuesday to prevent a planned shutdown of one of the state's three nuclear power plants, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer (D) said Wednesday.

Whitmer's request seeks to keep southwest Michigan's Palisades Power Plant operational using funding aimed at reactors with planned closures that was included in last year's bipartisan infrastructure bill. She called keeping Palisades open a "top priority" and said she hopes to avoid its scheduled decommissioning on May 31 to prevent a sale from Entergy to Holtec Decommissioning International.

1. "Doing so will allow us to shore up Michigan's energy supply to prevent price spikes on working families and small businesses, make Michigan more competitive for economic development projects bringing billions in investment, protect hundreds of good-paying jobs for Michiganders, and meet our climate goals," Whitmer said in a statement.
2. Entergy announced in 2017 it would seek to close the plant in 2022. Palisades employs 600 Michiganders, and provides more than 800 megawatts of clean energy that can power about 800,000 homes.
3. Whitmer's action follows requests from groups like the Climate Coalition to keep the plant open as a tool to fight climate change. Michigan's three nuclear plants generate nearly 30% of the state's power.
4. To prevent the closure of some of their own nuclear plants, New York and Illinois have previously passed subsidies and incentives to keep sites operational.

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