

Environment & Energy

Holtec Plan to Reopen Nuclear Plant Backed by Michigan Governor

By Zach Bright

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- Could keep one of Michigan's three nuclear plants open
 - Palisades generated 800 megawatts before closure
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Operations at Holtec International's recently shuttered Palisades nuclear plant—one of Michigan's three nuclear facilities—could be revived under the plans with support from Gov. Gretchen Whitmer.

Whitmer (D) in a Friday letter backed Holtec's plan to acquire funds from a \$6 billion pot of money made available by the US Department of Energy. The Civil Nuclear Credit program was a centerpiece win for the nuclear industry in last year's bipartisan infrastructure bill—a move aimed to prevent the imminent closure of zero-emissions power plants that struggled to compete with low natural gas prices.

The move comes in the wake of Pacific Gas and Electric Corp.'s Diablo Canyon plant in California applying for the first round of the program and is a continued sign of pumping up nuclear power's sagging fortunes as a reliable electricity source.

"I will do everything I can to keep this plant open, protect jobs, increase Michigan's competitiveness, lower costs, and expand clean energy production," Whitmer wrote. "We know the path ahead is not easy, but we are not going to let that stop us from fighting for economic opportunity for Southwest Michigan and reliable, clean energy for the state."

Before its closure in May, Palisades provided more than 800 megawatts of energy that can power about 800,000 homes, and 1,700 jobs at the plant and throughout the community.

Kris Singh, president and CEO of Holtec International, called the governor's support "instrumental."

"We applaud Governor Whitmer for her leadership in recognizing the vital importance of Palisades to Michigan's clean energy future as a source of safe and reliable carbon-free electricity," Singh said in a statement.

Holtec awaits a final decision from the Energy Department. The department didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

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