



Wisconsin
Electric
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VPNPD-90-306
NRC-90-063

June 22, 1990

Document Control Desk
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mail Station P1-137
Washington, DC 20555

Gentlemen:

DOCKETS 50-266 AND 50-301
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALIFICATION PROGRAM
FOR REGULATORY GUIDE 1.97 INSTRUMENTS
POINT BEACH NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2

On May 10, 1988, Gamma-Metrics issued a 10CFR Part 21 notification stating that, due to manufacturing problems, leaks may exist in the solder joints of either the detector assembly cable or the in-containment cable of their environmentally qualified Neutron Flux Monitor Systems. This system is installed in each unit at Point Beach. In a letter to you dated February 17, 1989 (Ref. VPNPD-89-089/NRC-89-020), we notified you that we were awaiting the availability of qualified test procedures, hardware fix kits, and installation procedures from Gamma-Metrics for our system. The confirmation of the environmental qualification of our neutron flux monitors was being delayed until the first refueling outage for each unit after Gamma-Metrics provided the qualified items to us. At the time the letter was written, it was believed that the qualified kits would be available for our Fall 1989 refueling outage. Gamma-Metrics has still not made these items available to us. However, due to the lengthy delay in receipt of these items, we have decided to proceed with the leak testing of our systems during each Unit's 1990 refueling outage.

During our Spring 1990 refueling outage, a Gamma-Metrics field service representative pressure tested our Unit 1 neutron flux monitor system cables. It was determined by the test that both the in-containment cable and the detector assembly's cable had leaks. Since repair kits were not available, both of the defective components were replaced. The final system was again pressure tested and was found to exhibit no measurable pressure drop over the 10 minute test period. As a result, the Unit 1 system has been certified to be environmentally qualified by Gamma-Metrics. Testing of the Unit 2 system is scheduled for the Fall 1990 refueling outage at which time any defective components will be replaced. The justification for continued

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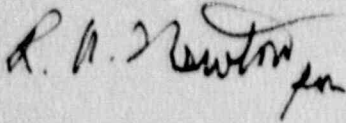
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operation provided with our August 9, 1988 letter (Ref. VPKPD-88-411/NRC-88-073), which concludes that we can continue to safely operate the Point Beach Nuclear Plant with this condition, is still applicable to Unit 2.

Very truly yours,



C. W. Fay
Vice President
Nuclear Power

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Copy to: NRC Resident Inspector
NRC Regional Administrator, Region III

