

May 15, 1997

Mr. S. A. Patulski
Site Vice President
Point Beach Nuclear Plant
Wisconsin Electric Power Company
6610 Nuclear Road
Two Rivers, WI 54241

SUBJECT: RESPONSE LETTER REGARDING OPERATOR LICENSING EXAMINATION
REPORTS NO. 50-266/96303(OL); 50-301/96303(OL)

Dear Mr. Patulski:

The NRC received your letter dated April 30, 1997, in which you requested an extension to complete the clarification of Technical Specification 15.3.7 bases. You had previously committed to complete this action by May 1, 1997, in your response dated February 24, 1997, to the Notice of Violation contained in Reports No. 50-266/96303(OL); 50-301/96303(OL).

We understand that due to newly identified issues that have higher priority and the adequacy of Technical Specification 15.3.7.B.i, completion of Technical Specification 15.3.7 bases clarification will be deferred until June 30, 1997. We find this extension acceptable.

Sincerely,

/s/ Cynthia D. Pederson

Cynthia D. Pederson, Director
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket Nos. 50-266; 50-301
Licenses No. DPR-24; DPR-27

Enclosure: Ltr 4/30/97 S. A. Patulski,
Wisconsin Electric Power Company
to USNRC, w/encl

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We understand that due to newly identified issues that have higher priority and the adequacy of Technical Specification 15.3.7.B.i, completion of Technical Specification 15.3.7 bases clarification will be deferred until June 30, 1997, and we will allow this extension.

Sincerely,

Cynthia D. Pederson, Director
 Division of Reactor Safety

Docket Nos. 50-266; 50-301
 Licenses No. DPR-24; DPR-27

Enclosure: Ltr 4/30/97 S. A. Patulski,
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cc w/o encl: R. R. Grigg, President and
Chief Operating Officer, WEPCo
A. J. Cayia, Plant Manager

cc w/encl: Virgil Kanable, Chief, Boiler Section
Cheryl L. Parrino, Chairman,
Wisconsin Public Service Commission
State Liaison Officer

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Point Beach Nuclear Plant
6610 Nuclear Rd., Two Rivers, WI 54241

NPL-97-0210

April 30, 1997

Document Control Desk
U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
Mail Station P1-137
Washington, DC 20555

Ladies/Gentlemen:

DOCKETS 50-266 AND 50-301
INSPECTION REPORT NOS. 50-266/96303(OL); 50-301/96303(OL)
POINT BEACH NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2

By letter dated January 23, 1997, the NRC forwarded to Wisconsin Electric Power Company NRC Inspection Reports Nos. 50-266/96303(OL); 50-301/96303(OL). Enclosed with the inspection reports was a Notice of Violation related to a plant procedure that aligned the Vital DC Electrical System to a configuration for which it was not designed. We issued a reply to the Notice of Violation in our letter NPL 97-0050 dated February 24, 1997.

In our reply, we committed to revise the abnormal operating procedure AOP-0.0 to ensure that a battery charger does not power a DC bus without a battery connected to the bus. Based on the performance limits of the PBNP battery chargers, the connection of a battery is necessary to buffer the DC output sufficiently to ensure the quality of DC power. These procedure changes were issued on April 11, 1997. We now believe that our procedures adequately implement the Technical Specifications and specifically address the abnormal configuration described in the inspection report.

In our reply, we also committed to clarify the Bases of Technical Specification 15.3.7 to ensure that the aforementioned battery charger performance limits are explicitly stated. We committed to complete this change by May 1, 1997. However, during the past month, we have assessed the priority of this task with respect to newly identified issues that are more safety-significant, and have deferred the completion of this task until June 30, 1997. Based on the adequacy of the Technical Specification (15.3.7.B.i), and the noted revisions to abnormal operating procedure AOP-0.0, we believe that the clarification may be so deferred without any risk to the health and safety of the public.

cc: J. Lennarty
D. McNeil
Lynch / Grant
J. Probe, DRP
J. Mc Cormick
(414) 755-2321

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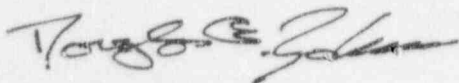
PL-97-0210

April 30, 1997

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Please contact us if you have any questions or desire additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Douglas F. Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D".

Douglas F. Johnson
Manager - Regulatory Services
& Licensing

GDA

cc: NRC Regional Administrator, NRC Resident Inspector, NRC Project Manager
J. Lennartz NRC Region III