



Point Beach Nuclear Plant  
6510 Nuclear Rd., Two Rivers, WI 54241

(414) 755-2321

NPL 97-0280

May 29, 1997

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

Ladies/Gentlemen:

**DOCKETS 50-266 AND 50-301**  
**SEVERE ACCIDENT MANAGEMENT IMPLEMENTATION**  
**POINT BEACH NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2**

On November 4, 1994, Nuclear Energy Institute's Nuclear Strategic Issues Advisory Committee approved a formal industry position on severe accident management. This industry position was a voluntary action which committed Nuclear Energy Institute's utility members to assess current capabilities to respond to severe accident conditions using Section 5 of NEI 91-04, Revision 1, "Severe Accident Issue Closure Guidelines." Implementation of appropriate improvements identified in the assessment were to be completed in accordance with a schedule determined by each licensee, but not later than December 31, 1998.

The adopted formal industry position asked each licensee to provide the Nuclear Regulatory Commission a target date for implementation. Our letter dated March 29, 1995, stated our intention to target completion of our assessment of severe accident management capabilities and our implementation of any identified improvements by July, 1997. Our targeted completion date was selected to complement our efforts to address the individual plant examination of external events. The target date was commensurate with our then projected staff resources and business unit priorities. We established this targeted completion date with the expectation of being an industry leader on this issue.

We have concluded that our original targeted completion date was too aggressive. The reallocation of staff resources during the past several months to manage higher priority issues at our Point Beach Nuclear Plant will preclude us from completing the implementation of severe accident management guidelines by our previously proposed July, 1997, target date.

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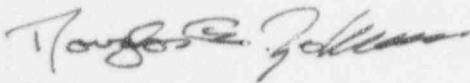
May 29, 1997

Page 2

We remain committed to completing this voluntary industry initiative in accordance with the schedule requirements promulgated by NEI's November 4, 1994, formal industry position. We intend to complete our assessment of severe accident management capabilities and implement appropriate improvements no later than December 31, 1998.

Please call us should you require additional information or have questions regarding this issue.

Sincerely,



Douglas F. Johnson  
Manager, Regulatory Services & Licensing

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cc: NRC Resident Inspector  
NRC Regional Administrator, Region III