

August 1, 2000

MEMORANDUM TO: Chairman Meserve
Commissioner Dicus
Commissioner Diaz
Commissioner McGaffigan
Commissioner Merrifield

FROM: William D. Travers */RA/*
Executive Director for Operations

SUBJECT: RELOCATION OF THE ALTERNATE (BACKUP) EMERGENCY
OPERATIONS FACILITY FOR THE POINT BEACH NUCLEAR POWER
PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2

Wisconsin Electric (WE), the licensee for Point Beach Nuclear Plant (PBNP), Units 1 and 2, is planning to move its alternate emergency operations facility (EOF) from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, to Green Bay, Wisconsin, effective August 1, 2000. The current location of WE's alternate EOF is at WE's headquarters in Milwaukee, approximately 88 miles from the Point Beach site. The future location will be in Green Bay where WE will share Kewaunee's primary EOF. The new location will be approximately 40 miles from the PBNP site. This move is associated with the recent Nuclear Management Company merger, which affects Point Beach, Units 1 and 2, Kewaunee, Prairie Island, Units 1 and 2, Monticello, and Duane Arnold.

The licensee has followed the regulations governing movement of an EOF and a change to its Emergency Plan. The licensee performed a 10 CFR 50.54(q) evaluation and determined that this change would not decrease the effectiveness of its Emergency Plan; therefore, the change may be made without Commission approval. Section 50.54(q) requires such changes (those not decreasing effectiveness) to be submitted in writing to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) 30 days after implementation. The staff will perform a limited review of the 10 CFR 50.54(q) evaluation in order to confirm there has been no decrease in effectiveness of the Emergency Plan. Based on our historical knowledge and records, the facility WE will use for its alternate EOF for PBNP was approved by the Commission as a primary EOF for Kewaunee, therefore, it meets the requirements for an EOF.

In the staff requirements memorandum (SRM) for SECY-96-170, dated September 18, 1996, the Commission reaffirmed that it will continue to require the staff to refer for Commission approval any proposed deviations beyond the NUREG-0737, Supplement 1, distances for EOFs and backup EOFs. The NUREG-0737 distances for backup EOFs are 10 to 20 miles from the site. However, since the 88-mile alternate EOF was previously approved by the Commission in the SRM dated May 16, 1990, for SECY 90-151, dated April 27, 1990, and the alternate EOF is being moved to an already approved primary EOF location, the staff is hereby notifying the Commission of the change. The staff concludes that the relocation of the PBNP alternate EOF is consistent with prior Commission approval.

cc: SECY
OGC
OCA
OPA
CFO
CIO

CONTACT: Beth A. Wetzel, NRR
(301) 415-1355

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