March 20, 2001

Document Control Desk
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Ladies/Gentlemen:

DOCKETS 50-305, 50-266, AND 50-301
KEWAUNEE NUCLEAR POWER PLANT
POINT BEACH NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2
IMPLEMENTATION OF REVISED 10 CFR 50.59

The effective date for the revised 10 CFR 50.59, was established in a December 13, 2000, Federal Register notice (65 FR 77773), as March 13, 2001. As discussed in Regulatory Issue Summary (RIS) 2001-03, dated January 23, 2001, the NRC has stated that to permit an orderly transition to the revised rule, licensees may implement the rule later than this date. Although an exemption is not necessary, the RIS suggested that a licensee may want to communicate its implementation plan to the NRC. It is our intention to implement the revised requirements of 10 CFR 50.59 before September 1, 2001, at the Kewaunee and Point Beach Plants. Until that time, we will continue to implement our existing 10 CFR 50.59 review processes. For evaluations begun prior to implementation of the revised requirements, we will complete the evaluations in accordance with the rule in effect prior to March 13, 2001.

Implementation of the revised requirements includes developing new procedures and training personnel at the Kewaunee and Point Beach Plants. To reduce the demands on plant staff and schedules, the training will be conducted subsequent to the Point Beach Unit 1 refueling outage (expected to end on May 19, 2001), and prior to the Kewaunee refueling and Steam Generator Replacement outage (planned to begin on September 23, 2001). Therefore, implementation of the revised 10 CFR 50.59 is expected to be completed by September 7, 2001.
Implementation of the revised 10 CFR 72.48 at the Point Beach Plant will be addressed in separate correspondence.

If you have questions regarding this letter, please contact me at (920) 388-8537.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Webb
Licensing Director

PRR

cc - US NRC - Region III
    US NRC Senior Resident Inspector - Kewaunee
    US NRC Senior Resident Inspector - Point Beach