

October 26, 2001

10 CFR 50.4

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

Ladies/Gentlemen:

DOCKETS 50-266 AND 50-301
HALON GASEOUS SUPPRESSION SYSTEMS
DECLARED OUT OF SERVICE
POINT BEACH NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2

Enclosed is a special report for Point Beach Nuclear Plant (PBNP), Units 1 and 2. This report is provided in accordance with the PBNP Fire Protection Evaluation Report (FPER), Section 8.1.5. That section requires the submittal of a special report when degradation of fire protection systems or components, as described in Section 8.1.3, exceeds the time listed in that FPER section.

On September 27, 2001, during the conduct of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Triennial Fire Protection inspection at PBNP, questions were raised concerning the design basis of the installed Halon 1301 fire suppression systems. Subsection 8.1.3.A.4 of the FPER describes specific requirements for the halon gaseous suppression systems at PBNP. These installations are identified in Table 8.1-1 of the FPER and include separate systems for the cable spreading room, the vital switchgear and battery room and the auxiliary feedwater pump room.

Since we could not immediately complete an assessment and evaluation of the concerns raised by the NRC, we initiated a condition report (CR 01-2949) and completed a safety significance screening of the concern. While we believe that our installed halon gaseous suppression system would be effective in fully extinguishing fires in these locations, we conservatively declared the Halon systems in the cable spreading room, the vital switchgear and battery room, and the auxiliary feedwater pump room to be out of service. In accordance with the FPER and plant procedures, compensatory measures, consisting of hourly fire watch inspections, were initiated

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for these locations. Once these halon systems had been declared out of service for greater than 14 days, this 30 day special report was required by our procedures and the FPER to formally notify the NRC of these conditions.

We are presently evaluating this concern and addressing several other issues identified during the fire protection inspection. Until that evaluation is completed and the NRC concerns specifically identified and resolved, we shall continue to perform the delineated compensatory measures.

If you have any questions concerning our plans in this regard, please contact us.

Sincerely,



Thomas J. Webb
Licensing Director

CWK/tyf

cc: NRC Resident Inspector
NRC Regional Administrator