

MAY 06 1986

Docket Nos. 50-266
and 50-301

Mr. C. W. Fay, Vice President
Nuclear Power Department
Wisconsin Electric Power Company
231 W. Michigan Street, Room 308
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53201

Dear Mr. Fay:

By letter dated May 30, 1985, you requested an exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR 50 Appendix A, General Design Criterion (GDC) 4, to eliminate the consideration of large reactor coolant system primary loop pipe breaks in the structural design basis of the Point Beach Nuclear Plant Units 1 and 2. You requested this exemption as directed by staff guidance contained in Generic Letter 84-04, dated February 1, 1984, "Safety Evaluation of Westinghouse Topical Reports Dealing with Elimination of Postulated Pipe Breaks in PWR Primary Main Loops." The Safety Evaluation contained in the generic letter concluded that an acceptable technical basis had been provided so that the asymmetric blowdown loads resulting from double-ended pipe breaks in main coolant loop piping need not be considered as a design basis for the Westinghouse Owner's Group plants listed (two of which were Point Beach Units 1 and 2) provided certain conditions were met. Your May 30, 1985 exemption request provided information showing that the first of these conditions was not applicable to Point Beach Units 1 and 2 and that the second condition was met for both unit.

Subsequent to your submittal, the Commission has published in the Federal Register on April 11, 1986 (51 FR 12502) its final rule, "Modification of General Design Criterion 4 Requirements for Protection Against Dynamic Effects of Postulated Pipe Ruptures." This change to the rule allows use of leak-before-break technology for excluding from the design basis the dynamic effects of postulated ruptures in primary coolant loop piping in pressurized water reactors (PWRs). The new rule is effective May 12, 1986.

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Based upon the Commission's issuance of the final rule modifying GDC 4 of Appendix A to 10 CFR Part 50, the staff has determined that the exemption requested in your May 30, 1985 application is no longer needed. If you have any questions, please contact your NRC Project Manager, T. Colburn on (301) 492-9787.

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George E. Lear, Director
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Mr. C. W. Fay
Wisconsin Electric Power Company

Point Beach Nuclear Plant
Units 1 and 2

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