

January 31, 1989

Docket Nos. 50-266
and 50-301

Distribution

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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:

SUBJECT: POINT BEACH NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS NO. 1 AND NO. 2 - CORE POWER
PEAKING FACTOR CONSIDERATION NOTICE (TAC Nos. 69349 and 69350)

Enclosed is a "Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendment to Facility
Operating License and Opportunity for Hearing" concerning your application for
amendment dated August 26, 1988; as supplemented by letters dated October 28,
November 30, and December 23, 1988; and as modified by your letter dated
January 17, 1988 (sic). This Notice was forwarded to the Office of the Federal
Register for publication.

Sincerely,

/s/

Warren H. Swenson, Project Manager
Project Directorate III-3
Division of Reactor Projects - III,
IV, V and Special Projects

Enclosure:
As stated

cc: w/enclosure
See next page

Office: LA/PDIII-3
Surname: PKreutzer
Date: 1/27/89

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PM/PDIII-3
WSwenson/mr
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Mr. C. W. Fay
Wisconsin Electric Power Company

Point Beach Nuclear Plant
Units 1 and 2

cc: Mr. Bruce Churchill, Esq.
Shaw, Pittman, Potts and Trowbridge
2300 N Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20037

Mr. James J. Zach, Manager
Point Beach Nuclear Plant
Wisconsin Electric Power Company
6610 Nuclear Road
Two Rivers, Wisconsin 54241

Town Chairman
Town of Two Creeks
Route 3
Two Rivers, Wisconsin 54241

Chairman
Public Service Commission
of Wisconsin
Hills Farms State Office Building
Madison, Wisconsin 53702

Regional Administrator, Region III
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Executive Director
for Operations
799 Roosevelt Road
Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137

Resident Inspector's Office
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
6612 Nuclear Road
Two Rivers, Wisconsin 54241

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONWISCONSIN ELECTRIC POWER COMPANYPOINT BEACH NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS NOS. 1 AND 2DOCKET NOS. 50-266 AND 50-301NOTICE OF CONSIDERATION OF ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENT TO
FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE AND OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission is considering issuance of an amendment to Facility Operating License Nos. DPR-24 and DPR-27, issued to the Wisconsin Electric Power Company (the licensee), for operation of the Point Beach Nuclear Plant, Unit Nos. 1 and 2, located at the licensee's site in Manitowoc County, Wisconsin.

The proposed amendment would revise the provisions in the Point Beach Nuclear Plant, Unit Nos. 1 and 2, Technical Specifications (TS's) relating to the design and operation of the Point Beach fuel cycle with upgraded core features and at higher core power peaking factors (F_Q and F_H) than are currently permitted by the plant TS.

Specifically, the proposed amendment would incorporate higher core power peaking factors which will allow the use of a low-low leakage loading pattern (L4P) fuel management strategy and will result in decreased neutron fluence to the reactor vessel. This fluence reduction will help address reactor vessel irradiation damage issues such as pressurized thermal shock, low upper shelf material toughness and pressure-temperature restrictions on heatup and cooldown. The higher core power peaking factors will allow additional fluence reduction

measures, such as the use of peripheral power suppression assemblies, to be pursued.

In addition to the increase in core power peaking factors, the proposed changes and reanalysis supporting them would permit the use of an upgraded fuel product features package. The upgraded fuel product features include: removable top nozzles, integral fuel burnable absorbers, axial blankets, extended burnup geometry, and inclusion of a debris filter bottom nozzle. The reactor core description is modified to reflect the proposed changes. Finally, the reanalysis for this proposed amendment supports the removal of the fuel assembly thimble plugging devices and the elimination of the third line segment of the $K(z)$ curve.

Prior to issuance of the proposed license amendment, the Commission will have made findings required by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act) and the Commission's regulations.

By March 8, 1989 the licensees may file a request for a hearing with respect to issuance of the amendment to the subject facility operating license and any person whose interest may be affected by this proceeding and who wishes to participate as a party in the proceeding must file a written request for hearing and a petition for leave to intervene. Requests for a hearing and petitions for leave to intervene shall be filed in accordance with the Commission's "Rules of Practice for Domestic Licensing Proceedings" in 10 CFR Part 2. If a request for a hearing or petition for leave to intervene is filed by the above date, the Commission or an Atomic Safety and Licensing Board, designated by the Commission or by the Chairman of the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel, will rule on the request and/or petition, and the

Secretary or the designated Atomic Safety and Licensing Board will issue a notice of hearing or an appropriate order.

As required by 10 CFR §2.714, a petition for leave to intervene shall set forth with particularity the interest of the petitioner in the proceeding, and how that interest may be affected by the results of the proceeding. The petition should specifically explain the reasons why intervention should be permitted with particular reference to the following factors: (1) the nature of the petitioner's right under the Act to be made a party to the proceeding; (2) the nature and extent of the petitioner's property, financial, or other interest in the proceeding; and (3) the possible effect of any order which may be entered in the proceeding on the petitioner's interest. The petition should also identify the specific aspect(s) of the subject matter of the proceeding as to which petitioner wishes to intervene. Any person who has filed a petition for leave to intervene or who has been admitted as a party may amend the petition without requesting leave of the Board up to fifteen (15) days prior to the first prehearing conference scheduled in the proceeding, but such an amended petition must satisfy the specificity requirements described above.

Not later than fifteen (15) days prior to the first prehearing conference scheduled in the proceeding, a petitioner shall file a supplement to the petition to intervene which must include a list of the contentions which are sought to be litigated in the matter, and the bases for each contention set forth with reasonable specificity. Contentions shall be limited to matters within the scope of the amendment under consideration. A petitioner who fails to file such a supplement which satisfies these requirements with respect to at least one contention will not be permitted to participate as a party.

Those permitted to intervene become parties to the proceeding, subject to any limitations in the order granting leave to intervene, and have the opportunity to participate fully in the conduct of the hearing, including the opportunity to present evidence and cross-examine witnesses.

A request for a hearing or a petition for leave to intervene shall be filed with the Secretary of the Commission, United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555, Attention: Docketing and Service Branch, or may be delivered to the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., by the above date. Where petitions are filed during the last ten (10) days of the notice period, it is requested that the petitioner or representative for the petitioner promptly so inform the Commission by a toll-free telephone call to Western Union at 1-800-325-6000 (in Missouri 1-800-342-6700). The Western Union operator should be given Datagram Identification Number 3737 and the following message addressed to John N. Hannon: petitioner's name and telephone number; date petition was mailed; plant name; and publication date and page number of this FEDERAL REGISTER notice. A copy of the petition should also be sent to the Office of General Counsel, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555, and to Gerald Charnoff, Esq., Shaw, Pittman, Potts and Trowbridge, 2300 N Street, NW., Washington, DC 20037 attorney for the licensee.

Nontimely filings of petitions for leave to intervene, amended petitions, supplemental petitions and/or requests for hearing will not be entertained

absent a determination by the Commission, the presiding officer or the presiding Atomic Safety and Licensing Board, that the petition and/or request should be granted based upon a balancing of the factors specified in 10 CFR 2.714(a)(1)(i)-(v) and 2.714(d).

If a request for hearing is received, the Commission's staff may issue the amendment after it completes its technical review and prior to the completion of any required hearing if it publishes a further notice for public comment of its proposed finding of no significant hazards consideration in accordance with 10 CFR 50.91 and 50.92.

For further details with respect to this action, see the application for amendment dated August 26, 1988; as supplemented October 28, November 30, and December 23, 1988; and as modified January 17, 1988 (sic), which are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20555, and at the Joseph P. Mann Library, 1516 Sixteenth Street, Two Rivers, Wisconsin.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 31st day of January 1989.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION


Timothy G. Colburn, Acting Director
Project Directorate III-3
Division of Reactor Projects - III,
IV, V and Special Projects
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation