

February 26, 1991

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:

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT RELATED TO REQUEST FOR EXEMPTION FROM
10 CFR 55.45(b)(2)(iii) (TAC NOS. 79310 AND 79311)

Enclosed for your information is a copy of an Environmental Assessment
and Finding of No Significant Impact related to the exemption requested in
your letter dated December 17, 1990 (NRC-90-123). This Environmental
Assessment has been forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for
publication.

Sincerely,

original signed by

Robert B. Samworth, Sr. Project Manager
Project Directorate III-3
Division of Reactor Projects - III/IV/V
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
As stated

cc: See next page

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DOCUMENT NAME: EXEMPTION EA 79310/311

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Robert B. Samworth", is positioned above the typed name.

Robert B. Samworth, Sr. Project Manager
Project Directorate III-3
Division of Reactor Projects - III/IV/V
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
As stated

cc: See next page

Mr. C. W. Fay
Wisconsin Electric Power Company

Point Beach Nuclear Plant
Unit Nos. 1 and 2

cc:

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

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONWISCONSIN ELECTRIC POWER COMPANYDOCKET NOS. 50-266 AND 50-301ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ANDFINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR 55.45 (b)(2)(iii) to Wisconsin Electric Power Company (the licensee), for the Point Beach Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2, located in Manitowoc County, Wisconsin.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of Proposed Action

The proposed exemption would allow a 4-month delay in the submittal of the certification of the Point Beach Nuclear Plant control room simulator. Title 10 CFR 55.45(b)(2)(iii) requires that the certification be submitted by March 26, 1991. Because of delays caused by the simulator vendor, the licensee proposes to submit the required certification by July 24, 1991.

The initial operator examinations using the simulator are scheduled for September 1991. The licensee does not anticipate any delay in administration of the simulator portion of these operator examinations.

The proposed action is in accordance with 10 CFR 55.11, Specific Exemptions, and is based upon the information provided to the NRC in the licensee's request dated December 17, 1990.

The Need for the Proposed Action

The proposed exemption is needed to allow the licensee to complete the factory acceptance testing of their new plant-referenced simulator. This

will permit their use of the factory acceptance testing as the testing portion of their certification process.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The proposed action will have no incremental impact relative to current practice because the exemption will only affect the schedule for activities related to simulator certification and not otherwise alter the actions being taken to install a new plant-referenced simulator at the Point Beach Nuclear Plant.

Alternative to the Proposed Action

Since the Commission has concluded that the environmental effects of the proposed action are not significant, any alternative with equal or greater environmental impacts need not be evaluated.

The principal alternative would be to deny the requested exemption. This would not reduce the environmental impacts attributed to this facility but would impose on the Wisconsin Electric Power Company a less efficient and more costly certification process.

Alternative Use of Resources

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement related to operation of the Point Beach Nuclear Plant.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

The Commission's staff reviewed the licensee's request and did not consult other agencies or persons.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

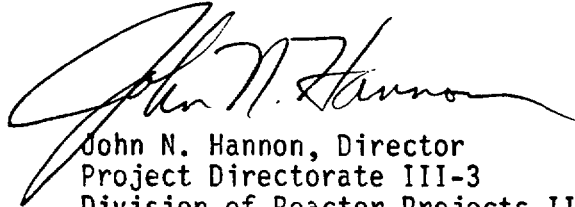
The Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed exemption. Based upon the foregoing environmental

assessment, we conclude that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

For further details with respect to this action, see the request for exemption dated December 17, 1990, which is available for public inspection Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. and at the Joseph P. Mann Library, 1516 Sixteenth Street, Two Rivers, Wisconsin.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 26th day of February 1991.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John N. Hannon", is written over the typed name and title.

John N. Hannon, Director
Project Directorate III-3
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV/V
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation