

Mr. Richard R. Grigg
Chief Nuclear Officer

August 15, 1997

Wisconsin Electric Power Company
231 West Michigan Street, Room P379
Milwaukee, WI 53201

SUBJECT: POINT BEACH NUCLEAR PLANT, UNIT NOS. 1 AND 2 -
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO
SIGNIFICANT IMPACT RE: EXEMPTION TO THE
REQUIREMENTS OF 10 CFR PART 50 APPENDIX R, SECTION
III.J, EMERGENCY LIGHTING (TAC NOS. M98975 AND M98976)

Dear Mr. Grigg:

Enclosed is a copy of the Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact related to your request for an exemption dated June 5, 1997, as supplemented June 13, 1997. The proposed exemption to Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, Appendix R, Section III.J would allow the use of hand-held, portable lighting units in lieu of emergency lighting units with at least an 8-hour battery power supply to traverse between the main plant and exterior support buildings to perform post-fire shutdown tasks.

The assessment is being forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,
ORIGINAL SIGNED BY
Linda L. Gundrum, Project Manager
Project Directorate III-1
Division of Reactor Projects - III/IV
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-266
and 50-301

Enclosure: Environmental Assessment

cc w/encl: See next page

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda L. Gundrum".

Linda L. Gundrum, Project Manager
Project Directorate III-1
Division of Reactor Projects - III/IV
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-266
and 50-301

Enclosure: Environmental Assessment

cc w/encl: See next page

Mr. Richard R. Grigg
Wisconsin Electric Power Company

Point Beach Nuclear Plant
Unit Nos. 1 and 2

cc:

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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONWISCONSIN ELECTRIC POWER COMPANYDOCKET NOS. 50-266 AND 50-301POINT BEACH NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OFNO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering granting an exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix R, Section III.J, to Wisconsin Electric Power Company, (the licensee), in connection with the operation of the Point Beach Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2, located in Manitowoc County, Wisconsin, under Facility Operating Licenses Nos. DPR-24 and DPR-27.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of the Proposed Action:

By letter dated June 5, 1997, as supplemented on June 13, 1997, the licensee requested an exemption to Title 10, *Code of Federal Regulations*, Part 50, Appendix R, Section III.J. The proposed exemption would allow the use of hand-held, portable lighting units in lieu of emergency lighting units with at least an 8-hour battery power supply to traverse between the main plant and exterior support buildings (diesel generator building, 13.8 kV switchgear building, service water and fire pump house, fuel oil pump house, gas turbine building, and warehouse 3) to perform post-fire shutdown tasks.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed action is needed for the licensee to avoid the burden of constructing and maintaining outdoor battery-powered lighting units.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed exemption and concludes that allowing the use of hand-held portable lighting units in lieu of 8-hour, battery powered emergency lighting units will not increase the types or amounts of effluents that may be released offsite, nor increase individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that this proposed action would result in no significant radiological environmental impact.

The proposed action will not increase the probability or consequences of accidents, no changes are being made in the types of any effluents that may be released offsite, no changes are being made to the authorized power level, and there is no significant increase in the allowable individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed action does involve features located entirely within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. It does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action:

Since the Commission has concluded there is no measurable environmental impact associated with the proposed action, any alternatives with equal or greater environmental impact need not be evaluated. As an alternative to the proposed action, the staff considered denial of the proposed action. Denial of the request would result in no change in current environmental impacts. The environmental impacts of the proposed action and the alternative action are similar.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement for the Point Beach Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

In accordance with its stated policy, on July 29, 1997, the staff consulted with the Wisconsin State official, Ms. Sarah Jenkins of the Wisconsin Public Service Commission, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Based upon the environmental assessment, the Commission concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed action.

For further details with respect to the proposed action, see the licensee's letter dated June 5, 1997, as supplemented by letter dated June 13, 1997, which are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, The Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and at the local public document room located at The Lester Public Library, 1001 Adams Street, Two Rivers, WI 54241.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 15th day of August 1997.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



Linda L. Gundrum, Project Manager
Project Directorate III-1
Division of Reactor Projects - III/IV
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation