

Mr. Richard R. Grigg  
 Chief Nuclear Officer  
 Wisconsin Electric Power Company  
 231 West Michigan Street, Room P379  
 Milwaukee, WI 53201

August 7, 1997

SUBJECT: POINT BEACH NUCLEAR PLANT, UNIT NOS. 1 AND 2 -  
 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO  
 SIGNIFICANT IMPACT RE: SPENT FUEL POOL ASSEMBLY  
 ENRICHMENT (TAC NO. M97837)

Dear Mr. Grigg:

Enclosed is a copy of the Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact related to your application for amendment dated January 24, 1997 (TSCR 193), as supplemented May 15, 1997. The proposed amendments would replace the existing spent fuel pool assembly enrichment limits of 44.8 grams of U-235 per axial centimeter (approximately 4.0 weight percent (w/o)) of a standard fuel assembly and 46.8 grams of U-235 per axial centimeter (approximately 4.75 w/o) of an Optimized Fuel Assembly (OFA) with 5.0 w/o U-235 for both OFA and standard fuel assemblies.

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

Sincerely,  
 Orig. 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

August 7, 1997

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Wisconsin Electric Power Company  
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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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Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7854

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 issuance of amendments to Facility Operating Licenses Nos. DPR-24 and DPR-27, issued to Wisconsin Electric Power Company, (the licensee), for operation of the Point Beach Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2, located in Manitowoc County, Wisconsin.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of the Proposed Action:

By letter dated January 24, 1997, as supplemented by letter dated May 15, 1997, the licensee proposed to change the technical specifications (TSs) to allow an increase in fuel enrichment (Uranium 235, U-235) to 5.0 weight percent and to require the use of integral fuel burnable absorbers for assemblies with enrichments greater than 4.6 weight percent U-235. Point Beach TSs currently limit fuel in the spent fuel pool and new fuel storage racks to a maximum enrichment of 44.8 grams of U-235 per axial centimeter (approximately 4.0 weight percent of a standard fuel assembly and 46.8 grams of U-235 per axial centimeter (approximately 4.75 weight percent) of an Optimized Fuel Assembly' (OFA).

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The licensee intends, in the future, to use the more highly enriched fuel to support longer fuel cycles. Currently, TS 15.5.4 limits the enrichment of fuel assemblies stored in the spent fuel pool and new fuel storage racks. Before the licensee extends plant operating cycles, it plans on receiving shipments of 5.0 weight percent fuel. Thus, the change to the TSs was requested.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed revision to the TSs and concludes that storage and use of fuel enriched with U-235 up to 5.0 weight percent at Point Beach Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2 is acceptable. The safety considerations associated with higher enrichments were evaluated by the NRC staff and the staff concluded that such changes would not adversely affect plant safety.

The environmental impacts of transportation resulting from the use of higher enrichment are discussed in the staff assessment entitled "NRC Assessment of the Environmental Effects of Transportation Resulting from Extended Fuel Enrichment and Irradiation," dated July 7, 1988. This assessment was published in the FEDERAL REGISTER on August 11, 1988 (53 FR 30355), as corrected on August 24, 1988 (53 FR 32322) in connection with an Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact related to the Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant, Unit 1. As indicated therein, the environmental cost contribution of an increase in fuel enrichment of up to 5 weight percent U-235 and irradiation limits of up to 60 gigawatt days per metric ton (GWD/MT) are either unchanged, or may in fact be reduced from

those summarized in Table S-4 as set forth in 10 CFR 51.52(c). These findings are applicable to the proposed amendments for Point Beach Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that this proposed action would result in no significant radiological environmental impact.

The change 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 application

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 January 24, 1997, as supplemented by letter dated May 15, 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 7th day of August 1997.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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

August 7, 1997

MEMORANDUM TO: Rules Review and Directives Branch  
Division of Freedom of Information and Publications Services  
Office of Administration

FROM: Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: POINT BEACH NUCLEAR PLANT, UNIT NOS. 1 AND 2-ENVIRONMENTAL  
ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT RE: SPENT FUEL POOL  
ASSEMBLY ENRICHMENT (TAC NO. M97837)

One signed original of the *Federal Register* Notice identified below is attached for your transmittal to the Office of the Federal Register for publication. Additional conformed copies ( 5 ) of the Notice are enclosed for your use.

- Notice of Receipt of Application for Construction Permit(s) and Operating License(s).
- Notice of Receipt of Partial Application for Construction Permit(s) and Facility License(s): Time for submission of Views on Antitrust matters.
- Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendment to Facility Operating License. (Call with 30-day insert date).
- Notice of Receipt of Application for Facility License(s); Notice of Availability of Applicant's Environmental Report; and Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Facility License(s) and Notice of Opportunity for Hearing.
- Notice of Availability of NRC Draft/Final Environmental Statement.
- Notice of Limited Work Authorization.
- Notice of Availability of Safety Evaluation Report.
- Notice of Issuance of Construction Permit(s).
- Notice of Issuance of Facility Operating License(s) or Amendment(s).
- Order.
- Exemption.
- Notice of Granting Exemption.
- Environmental Assessment.
- Notice of Preparation of Environmental Assessment.
- Receipt of Petition for Director's Decision Under 10 CFR 2.206.
- Issuance of Final Director's Decision Under 10 CFR 2.206.
- Other: Please call Shirley Poonai on 415-1340 if any questions.

DOCKET NOS. 50-255/50-301

Attachment(s): As stated

Contact: Linda Gundrum  
Telephone: 301-415-1340

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