August 16, 2002

Mr. Mark Reddeman
Site Vice President
Kewaunee and Point Beach Nuclear Plants
Nuclear Management Company, LLC
6610 Nuclear Road
Two Rivers, WI 54241

SUBJECT: POINT BEACH NUCLEAR POWER PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2 - BULLETIN 2001-01, "CIRCUMFERENTIAL CRACKING OF REACTOR PRESSURE VESSEL HEAD PENETRATION NOZZLES"

Dear Mr. Reddemann:

On August 3, 2001, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff issued Bulletin 2001-01, "Circumferential Cracking of Reactor Pressure Vessel Head Penetration Nozzles," to the industry requesting that addressees provide information related to the structural integrity of the reactor pressure vessel head penetration (VHP) nozzles for their respective facilities, including the extent of VHP nozzle leakage and cracking that has been found to date, the inspections and repairs that have been undertaken to satisfy applicable regulatory requirements, and the basis for concluding that their plans for future inspections will ensure compliance with applicable regulatory requirements at their respective pressurized-water reactor (PWR) plants. You were requested to respond to Items 1 and 4 of the Bulletin within 30 days of its issuance.

You provided your Bulletin response by letters dated September 4, 2001, January 4, 2002, January 28, 2002, and May 9, 2002, indicating that your plants are in the category of plants considered as having moderate susceptibility to VHP nozzle cracking, based on a relative susceptibility ranking of more than 5 and less than 30 effective full power years from the Oconee Nuclear Station, Unit 3, condition. The NRC staff finds that you have provided the requested information. Your Bulletin responses stated your intent to perform an effective visual examination of 100 percent of the VHP nozzles at the next refueling outage for each unit. For those nozzles that you cannot perform an effective visual examination, you stated that you will perform an examination from underneath the reactor pressure vessel head to ensure no through-wall pressure boundary leakage of the nozzles. We note that for Unit 2, an effective visual examination of 100 percent of the VHP nozzles was completed in April 2002. The NRC staff has concluded that the inspection schedule and scope described in your Bulletin response provide reasonable assurance that public health and safety will be maintained at your plants. Since the proposed inspection scope and schedule described in your response were integral to the staff's findings, it is the staff's expectation that you will submit a revised response to the Bulletin if you make any substantive changes to the schedule and/or scope of future inspections for your plants. If warranted by such changes, the staff will reevaluate this issue for Point Beach Nuclear Plant, Unit 1.

Addressees are reminded that Item 5 of the Bulletin requested the following information within 30 days after plant restart following the next refueling outage:

a. a description of the extent of VHP nozzle leakage and cracking detected at your plant, including the number, location, size, and nature of each crack detected;

b. if cracking is identified, a description of the inspections (type, scope, qualification requirements, and acceptance criteria), repairs, and other corrective actions you have taken to satisfy applicable regulatory requirements. This information is requested only if there are any changes from prior information submitted in accordance with this bulletin.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Deirdre W. Spaulding, Project Manager, Section 1
Project Directorate III
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-266 and 50-301

cc: See next page

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Sincerely,
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Deirdre W. Spaulding, Project Manager, Section 1
Project Directorate III
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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Point Beach Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2

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