May 14, 2004

Mr. George Lewis, President
Ho-Chunk Nation of Wisconsin
P.O. Box 667
Black River Falls, WI 54615

SUBJECT: U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION REVIEW OF POINT BEACH NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2 LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION

Dear Mr. Lewis:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is seeking input for its environmental review of an application from Nuclear Management Company, LLC (NMC) to renew the operating licenses for the Point Beach Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2 (PBNP). PBNP is located on the western shore of Lake Michigan in Two Rivers, Wisconsin, approximately 30 miles southeast of Green Bay, Wisconsin. PBNP is in close proximity to lands that may be of interest to the Ho-Chunk Nation of Wisconsin. As described below, the NRC process includes an opportunity for public and intergovernmental participation in the environmental review. We want to ensure that you are aware of our efforts and, pursuant to 10 CFR 51.28(b), the NRC invites the Ho-Chunk Nation of Wisconsin to provide input to the scoping process relating to the NRC's environmental review of the application. In addition, as outlined in 36 CFR 800.8, the NRC plans to coordinate compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 through the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

Under NRC regulations, the original operating license for a nuclear power plant is issued for up to 40 years. The license may be renewed for up to an additional 20 years if NRC requirements are met. The current operating licenses for PBNP Units 1 and 2 will expire in October 2010 and March 2013, respectively. NMC submitted its application for renewal of the PBNP operating licenses to the NRC on February 26, 2004.

The NRC is gathering information for a PBNP-specific supplement to its "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants" (GEIS), NUREG-1437. The supplement will contain the results of the review of the environmental impacts on the area surrounding the PBNP site that are related to terrestrial ecology, aquatic ecology, hydrology, historic and archaeological resources, and socioeconomic issues (among others) and will contain a recommendation regarding the environmental acceptability of the license renewal action.

The NRC will hold two public scoping meetings for the PBNP license renewal supplement to the GEIS on June 15, 2004, at Fox Hills, 250 West Church Street in Mishicot, Wisconsin. There will be two sessions to accommodate interested parties. The first session will convene at 1:30 p.m. and will continue until 4:30 p.m., as necessary. The second session will convene at 7:00 p.m., with a repeat of the overview portions of the meeting, and will continue until 10:00 p.m., as necessary. Additionally, the NRC staff will host informal discussions one hour before the start of each session. To be considered, comments must be provided either at the transcribed public

meetings or in writing. No formal comments on the proposed scope of the supplement to the GEIS will be accepted during informal discussions.

The application is electronically available for inspection from the Publicly Available Records component of NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) under Accession Number ML040580020. ADAMS is accessible at http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html which provides access through the NRC's Public Electronic Reading Room (PERR) link. If you do not have access to ADAMS or if there are problems in accessing the documents located in ADAMS, contact the NRC's Public Document Room (PDR) Reference staff at 1-800-397-4209 or by e-mail at pdr@nrc.gov. In addition, the application can be viewed on the Internet at http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/licensing/renewal/applications.html.

A paper copy of the application can be viewed at the NRC's PDR, located at One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike (first floor), Rockville, Maryland, 20852-2738; and at the Lester Public Library, located at 1001 Adams Street, Two Rivers, Wisconsin, 54241. The GEIS, which assesses the scope and impact of environmental effects that would be associated with license renewal at any nuclear power plant site, can also be found on the NRC's website, www.nrc.gov, or at http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/pdr.html, NRC's PDR.

Please submit any written comments that the Ho-Chunk Nation of Wisconsin tribal community may have to offer on the scope of the environmental review by July 14, 2004. Comments should be submitted by mail to the Chief, Rules and Directives Branch, Division of Administrative Services, Mail Stop T-6D59, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, or by e-mail to *PointBeachEIS@nrc.gov*. At the conclusion of the scoping process, the NRC staff will prepare a summary of the significant issues identified and the conclusions reached and will mail a copy to you.

The NRC will issue the draft supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) for public comment (anticipated publication date, January 2005), and will hold another set of public meetings in the site vicinity to solicit comments on the draft. A copy of the draft SEIS will be sent to you for your review and comment. After consideration of public comments received on

the draft, the NRC will prepare a final SEIS. The issuance of a final SEIS for PBNP is planned for September 2005. If you need additional information regarding the environmental review process, please contact Mr. William Dam, Environmental Project Manager, at 301-415-4014.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Pao-Tsin Kuo, Program Director
License Renewal and Environmental Impacts
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs

Docket Nos.: 50-266 and 50-301

cc: See next page

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OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

Point Beach Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2

cc:

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