



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

JUL 01 2004

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

B-19J

Pao-Tsin Kuo, Program Director
License Renewal and Environmental Impacts
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Re: Scoping Comments for the Proposed Operating License Renewal for the Point Beach Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2, Manitowoc County, Wisconsin

Dear Mr. Kuo:

On June 15 and 16, 2004, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) attended a public meeting and site audit held by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for the proposed operating license renewal for the Point Beach Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2, in Manitowoc County, Wisconsin. The NRC held the scoping meeting and site audit to engage interested parties prior to preparing the draft supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) for the license renewal. In accordance with our responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, we are offering scoping comments.

The U.S. EPA recommends the NRC consider the following points for developing the draft SEIS:

1. The draft SEIS should discuss planned or potential power uprates at Point Beach and the estimated resulting increases in radiological emissions, spent fuel, and other emissions. Although U.S. NRC's regulations (10 C.F.R. §. 51.53(c)(2)) state that an applicant's environmental report need not discuss the demand for power, we consider power uprates to be reasonably foreseeable actions that contribute to a cumulative radiological impact, under 40 C.F.R. § 1508.7 and therefore should be discussed in U.S. NRC's draft SEIS. In addition, the draft SEIS should discuss spent fuel storage capacity and spent fuel transportation issues that may arise from power uprates. The draft SEIS should describe impacts of power uprates on all environmental sectors, as may be relevant.
2. We expect the draft SEIS to discuss the effects of thermal discharge on the lake and fish communities. Currently, the State of Wisconsin does not have active thermal water quality standards, though an advisory group is in the process of developing new standards. The new standards may be in place, or exist in draft form, by the time of license renewal. The draft

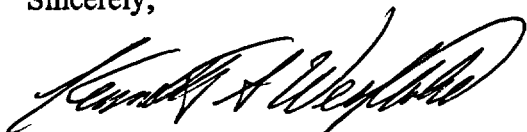
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SEIS should address the applicability of the upcoming State standards to Point Beach. Regardless of permit conditions, however, temperature effects from plant operation should be included in the draft SEIS, as part of assessing impacts to the environment.

3. During the plant audit tour it was mentioned that Point Beach will need to comply with the newly revised Clean Water Act Section 316(b), which regulates impacts of cooling water intakes. The draft SEIS should indicate modifications planned by the applicant to comply with the rule.
4. As part of describing site hydrogeology, the draft SEIS should discuss the on-site drinking water wells, drinking water quality, and treatment of the drinking water. In addition, we believe the potential for ground water contamination should be described in the draft SEIS, especially with regard to the abandoned settling pond.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide scoping comments. We look forward to reviewing the draft SEIS. If you have any questions, please call Anna Miller of my staff at (312) 886-7060.

Sincerely,



Kenneth A. Westlake, Chief
Environmental Planning and Evaluation Branch
Office of Strategic Environmental Analysis