



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
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SEP 19 2005

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REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

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70 FR 48784

B-19D

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Chief, Rules Review and Directives Branch
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mail Stop T6-D59
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Re: **Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plant, Supplement 23: Point Beach Nuclear Plant Units 1 and 2, Final Report (CEQ No. 20050344)**

Dear Sir or Madam:

In accordance with Section 309 of the Clean Air Act and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plant, Supplement 23: Point Beach Nuclear Plant Units 1 and 2, Final Report. The current operating licenses for Point Beach Units 1 and 2 will expire in October 2010 and March 2013, respectively. The proposed Federal action would renew the current operating licenses for an additional 20 years. The Point Beach Nuclear Plant is located in Manitowoc County, Wisconsin, on the shoreline of Lake Michigan. Units 1 and 2 are pressurized light-water reactors, which each currently produce 1540 megawatts of thermal energy and generate 545 megawatts of electrical power. Each unit is refueled on an 18-month cycle. Plant cooling is provided by a once-through circulating water system that draws and discharges to Lake Michigan. The U.S. EPA participated in a site visit on June 16, 2004 and provided scoping comments dated July 1, 2004.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) developed the Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) approach to streamline the license renewal process on the premise that environmental impacts of most nuclear power plant license renewals are similar, in most cases. Building on the analyses in GEIS, the NRC develops facility-specific supplemental environmental impact statements (SEIS) for individual plants as the facilities apply for license renewal. EPA provided comments on the Point Beach draft SEIS on April 13, 2005.

Based on our review of the Point Beach final SEIS, we retain some of the concerns we raised in our April 13, 2005 letter. The U.S. EPA rated the draft SEIS "EC-2," meaning that we had environmental concerns with the proposed action, and we requested additional information in the final SEIS. The final SEIS has addressed earlier U.S. EPA comments about ground water, in particular the closed wastewater retention pond, and entrainment of fish and shellfish at early life stages. The U.S. EPA continues to have concerns about the adequacy and clarity of the

SIS Review Complete

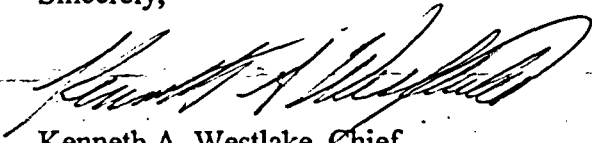
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add = S. Imboden (SXF)*

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radiological impacts and risk estimates; the final SEIS does not does not sufficiently explain site-specific conditions or environmental consequences of the selected alternative. Since our concerns involve changes in plant operation or changes to actual, potential, or cumulative environmental impacts, we believe they should be addressed with current facility-specific information. We encourage NRC to revise its responses to our concerns, in order to develop a more comprehensive and site-specific environmental document.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss any aspect of the comments, please contact Anna Miller of my staff at (312) 886-7060.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kenneth A. Westlake". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the typed name.

Kenneth A. Westlake, Chief
NEPA Implementation Section
Office of Science, Ecosystems, and Communities