

MAY 06 1992

Docket No. 50-305

Wisconsin Public Service Corporation
ATTN: Mr. C. R. Steinhardt
Senior Vice President
Nuclear Power
Post Office Box 19002
Green Bay, WI 54307-9002

Dear Mr. Steinhardt:

Enclosed for your review, before our scheduled meeting of May 28, 1992, is the initial SALP 9 report for the Kewaunee Nuclear Power Plant, covering the period December 1, 1990, through February 29, 1992.

In accordance with NRC policy, I have reviewed the SALP Board Assessment and concur with their ratings. It is my view that your conduct of activities in connection with the Kewaunee facility was good. The foundation of this overall good performance was your highly skilled and experienced staff, which maintained the plant's good material condition and excellent operating record. In particular, management attention to Plant Operations, Radiological Controls and Emergency Preparedness resulted in continued excellent performance, along with Category 1 ratings, in these areas. In the Security functional area, a performance decline was noted early in the assessment period due to weaknesses in the plant's access control practices. While this initial performance decline offset the improving trend noted at the end of the last assessment period, management effectiveness in improving performance was evident throughout this assessment period, resulting in the assignment of a Category 2 rating with an improving trend. You continued to receive a Category 2 rating in Engineering and Technical Support.

Performance in the area of Maintenance/Surveillance declined, receiving a Category 2 rating. While we noted that management applied effort to reverse the declining trend noted in the last assessment report, particularly regarding procedure upgrades and the addition of engineers to the maintenance department, the lower rating resulted from inconsistent management involvement in the In-Service Testing and Motor Operated Valve Testing programs and from weaknesses in management controls governing maintenance.

Safety Assessment/Quality Verification performance was mixed, and this area was assigned a Category 2 rating. While you continued to implement your highly effective Safety System Functional Inspection program, basic weaknesses persisted in the area of corrective actions. Due to lack of formal management oversight programs to ensure all conditions adverse to quality receive effective, timely review, the NRC is concerned that matters that do not result in immediate obvious inoperability can be overlooked. Underlying this concern is our assessment that technical reviews in support of operability decisions, licensing actions and safety reviews tended to be weak.

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While you will have sufficient opportunity to present your comments at the meeting on May 28, 1992, we also solicit written comments within 30 days after the meeting. Your comments, a summary of our meeting, and my disposition of your comments will be issued as the Final SALP report.

In accordance with Section 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," Part 2, Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, a copy of this letter and the Initial SALP Report will be placed in the NRC's Public Document Room.

Should you have any questions concerning the Initial SALP Report, we would be pleased to discuss them with you.

Sincerely,

A. Bert Davis
Regional Administrator

Enclosure: Initial SALP 9 Report
No. 305/92001(DRP)

cc w/enclosure:

C. A. Schrock, Manager

Nuclear Engineering

Mark L. Marchi, Manager,

Kewaunee Plant

DCD/DCB (RIDS)

OC/LFDCB

Resident Inspector, RIII

Virgil Kanable, Chief

Boiler Section

Charles Thompson, Chairman

Wisconsin Public Service

Commission

Robert M. Thompson, Administrator

WI Div. of Emergency Govt.

INPO

SEE ATTACHED CONCURRENCES

RIII

RIII

RIII

RIII

RIII

RIII

Hague/sd

Knop

Brown

Hasse

WLS
for Greenman
5/6/92

Miller

RIII

RIII

RIII

Norelius

Paperiello

Davis
5/6

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A. Bert Davis
Regional Administrator

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No. 305/92001(DRP)

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C. R. Steinhardt, Senior
Vice President -
Nuclear Power
Mark L. Marchi, Manager,
Kewaunee Plant
DCD/DCB (RIDS)
OC/LFDCB
Resident Inspector, RIII
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INPO

RIII	RIII	RIII	RIII	RIII	RIII
Hague/sd	Knop	Brown	Hasse	Greenman	Miller
RIII	RIII	RIII			
Norelius	Paperiello	Davis			

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4/30/92

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YOS RIII Noble 5/1/92	RIII Paperiello	RIII Davis			

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