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NRC Increases Oversight of Point Beach for Flooding Protection Violation

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is increasing its oversight of the Point Beach Nuclear Plant Units 1 and 2 for failures to ensure appropriate procedures were in place for a potential flood.

Point Beach is operated by NextEra Energy and is located in Two Rivers, Wis., approximately 13 miles northeast of Manitowoc.

An NRC inspector identified the violation during an inspection conducted from January to March. The violation involved the failure of the plant to have procedures to prescribe how to protect safety-related equipment in the turbine building and pump house from potential lake flooding.

The NRC staff held a regulatory conference in July to discuss the risk significance of the preliminary finding. After reviewing the NRC inspection and information presented by the company, the NRC staff concluded the violation should be classified as “white,” meaning it has a low to moderate safety significance.

The company has taken corrective actions to address the violation and has additional actions planned in order to prevent recurrence.

The NRC will conduct a supplemental inspection to ensure that the root cause and contributing causes are identified and understood, and that corrective actions are sufficient.