



Wisconsin Electric POWER COMPANY
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October 12, 1981

Mr. Harold R. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
Washington, D. C. 20555

Attention: Mr. Robert A. Clark, Chief
Operating Reactors Branch 3

Gentlemen:

DOCKET NO. 50-266
INTERIM MODIFICATION OF
TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION CHANGE REQUEST NO. 69
STEAM GENERATOR TUBE SLEEVING DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM
POINT BEACH NUCLEAR PLANT, UNIT 1

On July 2, 1981, Wisconsin Electric Power Company (Licensee) submitted an application for license amendments to Facility Operating Licenses DPR-24 and DPR-27 for the Point Beach Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2, which would authorize changes to the Technical Specifications to permit operation of the units with steam generator tubes having degradation exceeding the plugging limit, but which have been repaired by sleeving. The NRC published a prenotice regarding the proposed issuance of these amendments. Prior to that action, on July 20, 1981, a letter was received from Wisconsin's Environmental Decade (WED) requesting that the NRC conduct an adjudicatory hearing on the proposed license amendments. Subsequently, an Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB) was appointed to rule on the merits of WED's request and to conduct, if necessary, a hearing on the proposed license amendments.

As discussed in the July 2, 1981 application, and in Licensee's August 6, 1981 answer to WED's petition, Licensee is conducting a sleeving demonstration program at Point Beach Unit 1 during the fall refueling outage which commenced on October 9, 1981. Recognizing that any hearing on Licensee's July 2 Technical Specification Change Request would not be completed, and a decision issued, prior to the completion of the demonstration program, Licensee filed a motion with the ASLB on September 28, 1981, for authorization for interim operation of Unit 1 with steam generator tubes sleeved rather than plugged. In that motion, and in the accompanying proposed order, Licensee moved the Board to authorize the NRC to issue an appropriate license amendment to Facility Operating License No. DPR-24 to permit interim operation of Point

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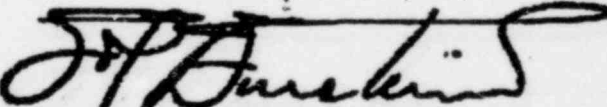
Beach Nuclear Plant, Unit 1, with up to six unplugged steam generator tubes which have been found to leak or exceed the Technical Specification plugging limit if such tubes have been repaired by sleeving. In support of this motion, Licensee subsequently filed on October 8, 1981, a motion for summary disposition of WED's Contentions 3-6 as they relate to this interim operation of Unit 1.

Enclosed with this letter, we are providing a proposed interim modification to Licensee's Technical Specification Change Request No. 69 for the Commission's approval. This modification consists of a footnote to Specification 15.4.2.B., "Corrective Measures." This proposed footnote reads: "Point Beach Nuclear Plant Unit 1 may be operated at power with up to six tubes in one steam generator having degradation exceeding the plugging limit provided these tubes have been repaired by insertion of sleeves into the tubes to bridge the degraded or defective portion of the tubes." Approval of this temporary Technical Specification change, which is a small part of the authorization requested by Technical Specification Change Request No. 69, would permit Licensee to realize full benefit from the sleeving demonstration program as discussed and supported in the previously referenced filings.

Please note that this proposed modification of our July 2 license amendment request is intended for interim operation of Unit 1 only. Once the ASLB has conducted its hearing and rendered a final decision on our July 2 request, if such hearing is determined to be necessary, we would request that the NRC then issue the license amendments as originally proposed. It is requested that your approval of this proposed interim amendment be granted by November 11, 1981.

As required by the Commission's regulation, we are providing herewith, three signed originals and forty copies of the temporary modification to Technical Specification Change Request No. 69.

Very truly yours,


Executive Vice President

Sol Burestein

Attachments

Subscribed and sworn to before me
this 12th day of October, 1981.

Joseph P. Buschman
Notary Public, State of Wisconsin
my Commission expires July 1, 1981.
Copies to Attached Service List
NRC Resident Inspector