

March 11, 1983

LS05-83-03-018

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LICENSEE: CONSUMERS POWER COMPANY

FACILITY: Big Rock Point Plant

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF MEETING WITH CONSUMERS POWER COMPANY  
ON FEBRUARY 25, 1983

On February 25, 1983, we met with representatives of Consumers Power Company in our Bethesda offices to discuss an expansion of the SEP integrated assessment for Big Rock Point. A list of attendees is attached.

CPC presented the following information to us regarding Big Rock Point. CPC has ordered fuel for the 1983 refueling; therefore, the plant will run at least until the 1984 refueling outage. CPC is currently evaluating the economic feasibility of continuing to run the plant. The cost of operating the plant has jumped dramatically in the last few years due mainly to new NRC requirements such as NUREG-0737. If the plant is to continue to operate, the annual operating cost must be reduced substantially. CPC intends to make a decision about the future operation of the plant early this summer.

CPC views the increased regulatory costs of the last few years as a short-term situation. CPC believes that the TMI issues as well as several other generic issues are nearly complete and that regulatory costs will drop-off as a result unless a large number of new requirements are imposed by us. This drop-off helps to brighten the plant's financial future; however, it is not enough. To further reduce the cost of operating the plant, CPC will propose that we relax a number of requirements that have already been imposed or will be imposed on the plant. CPC feels that such relaxations are justified based on a comparison of the magnitude of the accident risk and consequences of Big Rock Point against other plants. CPC further proposed that all of the licensing issues currently under consideration be integrated into an assessment so that those requirements which are cost-effective improvements in safety can be identified and given priority. CPC also believes that such an assessment would conclude that many requirements could be relaxed without impairing the safety of the plant. CPC proposes to make extensive use of their probabilistic risk assessment to support their beliefs.

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We informed CPC that we are prepared to undertake such an assessment. NRR management is supportive of the overall concept of integrated assessment. We propose to expand the Systematic Evaluation Program Integrated assessment for Big Rock Point to include all current licensing issues. This

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assessment can not be completed with management, ACRS, and Commission approval by the end of June; however, the evaluation and decision process should be close enough to completion to give CPC adequate information to make its financial decision on Big Rock Point. We reminded CPC that the burden of proof is on the licensee to show us that requirements can be relaxed without endangering plant safety.

CPC and we will begin preparations for this integrated assessment.

Original signed by/

Richard Emch, Project Manager  
Operating Reactors Branch #5  
Division of Licensing

Enclosure:  
As stated

cc w/enclosure:

- W. Dircks
- V. Stello
- H. Denton
- D. Eisenhut
- R. Purple
- R. Mattson
- H. Thompson
- R. Vollmer
- T. Speis
- F. Miraglia
- R. Goddard
- R. Bachmann

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