

ATTACHMENT TO LICENSEE EVENT REPORT NO. 82-021/03L-0

Wisconsin Electric Power Company
Point Beach Nuclear Plant Unit 1
Docket No. 50-266

At approximately 1400 hours on November 2, 1982, contractor personnel deenergized and began to disconnect the control board, C74, for the existing fire detection system required by Technical Specification 15.3.14.D. They had believed that plant personnel were satisfied with the operation and reliability of the newer system which had been installed and operational since 06/30/82.

The contractor personnel had informed the control room of other fire protection modifications as these had caused alarms in the control room. A separate alarm existed with the new fire detection system which would not be affected by the previous system, therefore, disconnecting the old system commenced without informing the control room or plant management. The contractor had been informed by the Wisconsin Electric liaison engineer that no special maintenance procedure was needed for replacing the fire detection control board with a new panel. The contractor also was not cognizant that the fire detection system was required to be operational by Technical Specifications.

When dismantling the C74 control board, the old fire detectors were deenergized. However, the new fire detection system which had a local alarm in the control room, was functional and provided protection in all areas required by Technical Specification 15.3.14.D with the exception of one area, the fuel oil pumphouse. It was not until 1030 hours on November 3, 1982, that the plant's Modification Engineer recognized that the fire detectors required by Technical Specification had been deenergized. The Superintendent - Operations was informed and he directed that hourly fire watch inspections be initiated in the affected areas; this was instituted at 1100 hours on November 3, 1982. All work on the fire detection system was halted. Although the new fire detectors were functional, they had not been tested to meet the periodicity of Technical Specification 15.4.15.D. Therefore, for a 21-hour period, there had been no hourly fire watch inspections in the one area which had no fire detection or in the other areas which had detectors which had not been tested as required by Technical Specification 15.4.15.D.

Rather than reconnect the C74 control board for the old fire detection system, it was decided to perform a Technical Specification test on the new detectors. This was completed at 1755 hours on November 7, 1982. Hourly fire watch inspections were then secured in all affected areas except for the fuel oil pumphouse. This area will continue to be monitored hourly until its detector can be made operational.

A lack of understanding existed between contractor and plant personnel about parallel operation of the old and new fire detection systems. Also, the engineer following the modifications did not fully understand the shiftover required between the two systems. In an effort to prevent a similar occurrence, the contractor has been instructed that no presently installed fire protection equipment will be placed out of service without specific authority from plant management, and specifically the Duty Shift Supervisor must be informed of any maintenance to be accomplished by the contractor on the fire detection system.

The Resident Inspector has been notified of this event.