



Wisconsin Electric POWER COMPANY

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June 20, 1983

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

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

Gentlemen:

DOCKETS 50-266 AND 50-301
AUXILIARY FEEDWATER SYSTEM OPERABILITY
POINT BEACH NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2

In connection with the operability of the auxiliary feedwater system at the Point Beach Nuclear Plant, Wisconsin Electric committed to notify the NRC by June 20, 1983 of modifications, or changes to procedures, with respect to the auxiliary feedwater system which address the NRC staff's concern expressed in Mr. R. L. Hague's March 10, 1983 memorandum to Mr. J. F. Streeter. Presently, the auxiliary feedwater system is operated at Point Beach in accordance with Technical Specification 15.3.4 as modified by License Amendment Nos. 73 and 78 dated May 4, 1983.

Although we believe that Technical Specification Section 15.3.4 and our procedures ensure optimized auxiliary feedwater system flow to an affected unit, we have proposed herewith a hardware modification which will further ensure automatic initiation of auxiliary feedwater flow to an affected operating unit without operator action. The proposed modification would permit automatic feedwater flow from the motor-driven auxiliary feedwater pump under all conditions as follows:

1. During normal two-unit power operation, a signal requiring auxiliary feedwater system flow for an affected unit would start both motor-driven auxiliary feedwater pumps, open the motor-operated isolation valves to the steam generators of the affected unit, and close the motor-operated isolation valves to the steam generators of the unaffected unit.

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2. During subcritical operation of a unit, such as at the time of a unit startup or shutdown, or during critical operation with a faulted steam generator (e.g., due to an unisolable feed or steam line break), steam generator level(s) may be desired to be kept at or below the level where auxiliary feedwater system flow would be automatically initiated. The proposed hardware modification would allow the operator the flexibility to feed and isolate the startup/shutdown/faulted steam generators yet maintain automatic opening control for the other operating unit's auxiliary feedwater system. For example, under the condition where a startup unit's steam generators are being fed by the auxiliary feedwater system through the motor-driven auxiliary feedwater pumps and the associated open motor-operated isolation valves, and the other operating unit's steam generators required emergency auxiliary feedwater system flow, the motor-operated isolation valves of each unit's steam generators would reverse position so that the affected unit would receive auxiliary feedwater system flow and the startup unit's steam generators would be isolated by their associated auxiliary feedwater motor-operated isolation valves. Thus, the proposed hardware modification would ensure automatic initiation of auxiliary feedwater flow to an affected operating unit without operator action during the time that the other unit's steam generators were in a required low-low level condition for startup, shutdown, or fault.
3. During surveillance testing, if an event requires auxiliary feed, no special operating requirements would be necessary since the new automatic valve operation circuitry would open or reopen the motor-operated isolation valves to the affected unit while closing or reclosing the motor-operated isolation valves to the unaffected unit. Surveillance testing would not be affected by one or both units in a shutdown condition.

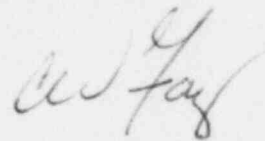
With the proposed hardware modification, operation at power would be possible with the motor-operated auxiliary feedwater pump motor-operated isolation valves normally closed or open while assuring automatic auxiliary feedwater flow to an affected operating unit. Operation with the motor-operated isolation valves normally closed is an available mode of operation with the above modification in place to maintain the system operable.

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This proposed modification only affects the motor-driven auxiliary feedwater pumps and their associated motor-operated isolation valves and flow paths. Automatic initiation of auxiliary feedwater flow to the steam generators without operator action has and continues to be available from the unit dedicated turbine-driven auxiliary feedwater pumps.

If you consider this proposed modification to meet the requirements of the NRC staff concerning operability of the auxiliary feedwater system, please inform us so that we may proceed with the detailed engineering of this modification and conduct a 10 CFR 50.59 review prior to implementation. It would be possible for us to implement this review and change within approximately eight months from concurrence by your staff. This is based upon the present expected delivery time for materials along with engineering, final design, and installation.

Very truly yours,



Vice President-Nuclear Power

C. W. Fay

Copies to NRC Resident Inspector
J. G. Keppler, Region III