



**Wisconsin Electric** POWER COMPANY  
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June 23, 1983

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
Department of Natural Resources  
WPDES Permit Section  
P.O. Box 7921  
Madison, Wisconsin 53707

Gentlemen:

WPDES Permit No. WI-0000957-2  
POINT BEACH NUCLEAR PLANT

On May 27, 1983, the Department was notified of a high pH discharge from the Point Beach Nuclear Plant. The pH of the retention pond discharge (sample point 501) was 10.3 (s.u.) on May 25, 1983.

On May 9, 1983, we began to lower the level of the retention pond in order to inspect the bottom contour and to determine if aquatic organisms were disturbing the sludge and causing problems with pH. When the retaining boards were replaced and the pond allowed to refill, leaks developed in the retaining boards that acted to siphon sludge from the bottom of the pond into the discharge. The sludge, which is primarily lime sludge from the makeup water treatment process, resulted in the high pH of the discharge.

The low volume of water discharged from the retention pond into the once-through cooling water discharge did not have a significant impact on the pH of the outfall. A pH sample taken of outfall 001 on May 25 was 8.3 (s.u.). The leaks in the retaining boards were repaired on May 26, 1983. No chemical additions were made to adjust the retention pond pH since the cooling water outfall pH was within the permit limits of 6.0 to 9.0 (s.u.).

Very truly yours,

Vice President - Nuclear

C. W. Fay

cc: DNR Lake Michigan District  
NRC Washington, D.C.  
NRC Region III

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