Wisconsin Electric POWER COMPANY
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April 5, 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:

DOCKET NO. 50-301
REACTOR COOLANT SYSTEM GAS VENT SYSTEM
POINT BEACH NUCLEAR PLANT, UNIT 2

10 CFR 50.44(c)(3)(iii) requires that light-water nuclear power reactors be provided with remotely operated high point vents for the reactor coolant system, for the reactor vessel head, and for other systems required to maintain adequate core cooling if the accumulation of noncondensable gases would cause loss of function of these systems. These required modifications (high point vents) are to be operational by the end of the first scheduled outage of sufficient duration beginning after July 1, 1982.

As you know, we stated in our December 17, 1982 letter that the reactor coolant system gas vent system (RCSGVS) for Point Beach Unit 2 would be placed in a configuration similar to that of Unit 1 following the spring 1983 refueling outage. All the necessary valves and piping for the Unit 2 RCSGVS will be installed and hydrostatically tested; however, the permanent control panel necessary to permit remote operation of the RCSGVS from the control room will not be delivered in time to permit installation prior to the conclusion of the Unit 2 refueling outage. Accordingly, we hereby request that pursuant to the provisions of 10 CFR 50.12, Wisconsin Electric Power Company be granted an exemption from the schedular requirements of 10 CFR 50.44(c)(3)(iii) to allow delayed installation of the Point Beach Nuclear Plant Unit 2 RCSGVS by no later than January 1, 1984.

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This exemption request for Point Beach Unit 2 is essentially identical to the exemption request filed for Point Beach Unit 1 in letters dated June 18 and December 17, 1982. Mr. R. A. Clark's letter dated January 25, 1983 granted the exemption to the RCSGVS installation regulations for Unit 1 concluding that our approach was reasonable and consistent with NRC guidelines.

The RCSGVS as it will be installed on Unit 2 at the end of the refueling outage will be capable of being operated in an emergency through the hookup of a temporary power supply to an installed interim control panel. However, to preclude inadvertent operation of the Unit 2 RCSGVS, the system will be secured with all manual isolation valves open, with all remotely operated solenoid valves shut, and with power removed from the temporary control panel. This is identical to the configuration for Unit 1.

Full operability of both units' systems will be achieved after completion of bus upgrade work and after receipt and installation of the new auxiliary safety instrumentation panels in the control room. This is expected to be complete for these systems in late 1983. Additionally, by that time, plant operator training on the RCSGVS will have been conducted and approved written procedures on how to operate the system during normal conditions will be in place for operator use. Operation of the RCSGVS during accident conditions will be included in the Emergency Operating Procedures upgrade effort. This effort, which includes the training of licensed operators before the procedures are implemented in the control room, will be completed on June 4, 1984.

Should you have any questions regarding this exemption request, please contact us.

Very truly yours,

C. W. Fay

Vice President-Nuclear Power

C. W. Fay

Copy to NRC Resident Inspector