

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information is as initially received without verification or evaluation, and is basically all that is known by the staff on this date.

Facility: Wisconsin Elec. Power Co.
Point Beach Nuclear Power Plant
Docket No. 50-266, 50-301
Two Rivers, WI 54241

Licensee Emergency Classification:
____ Notification of Unusual Event
____ Alert
____ Site Area Emergency
____ General Emergency
xx Not Applicable

Subject: EXTENSIVE PUBLIC AND GOVERNMENTAL INTEREST IN SPENT FUEL SHIPMENTS

The States of Wisconsin and Illinois have become directly involved in shipments of spent reactor fuel from the General Electric Co. (GE) storage facility in Morris, Illinois, to the Point Beach Nuclear Power Plant at Two Rivers, Wisconsin.

At the request of Wisconsin Governor Anthony Earl, Region III (Chicago) has agreed to inspect all shipments prior to departure from GE and upon arrival at Point Beach for a 30-day period. The inspection program will then be reevaluated. The Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety and State Police are also inspecting the shipments and the truck carrying the spent fuel cask, and State personnel are escorting the cask to the state line.

Legislative hearings were held July 28, 1983, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and August 3, 1983, in Chicago, Illinois. An NMSS representative testified at the two hearings, accompanied by Region III personnel. On August 9, 1983, NMSS and Region III representatives met with the Cuyahoga County Commission in Cleveland, Ohio, to discuss the local officials' concerns with the pending West Valley shipments.

Illinois Attorney General Neil Hartigan met August 8, 1983, with state officials, Wisconsin Electric and GE representatives to discuss the shipments. Mr. Hartigan has indicated previously he intends to seek an injunction halting the shipments, but he has not taken any legal action thus far.

The General Electric to Point Beach shipments will include 109 spent fuel assemblies that were originally shipped to GE for storage in the mid-1970s. Each truck shipment contains one fuel assembly.

In addition to the GE to Point Beach shipments, additional shipments are planned from the fuel storage pool at West Valley, N.Y., with 114 assemblies being returned to Point Beach and 206 being returned to the Dresden Nuclear Power Station at Morris, Illinois. Another series of shipments is planned to carry 1056 spent fuel assemblies by rail from the Cooper Station at Brownville, Nebraska, to the GE storage facility. Another 88 spent fuel assemblies are to be shipped to GE from the San Onofre Nuclear Power Station in California.

The GE to Point Beach and Cooper to GE shipping routes have been reviewed and approved by the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards. A decision is pending on the shipping routes from West Valley.

There has been extensive news media interest in the spent fuel shipments. Region III continues to respond to inquiries.

The States of Illinois and Wisconsin are actively involved in the shipments.

This information is current as of 2 p.m., August 9, 1983.

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