



Wisconsin Electric POWER COMPANY

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June 27, 1984

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

Attention: Mr. J. R. Miller, Chief
Operating Reactors, Branch 3

Gentlemen:

DOCKET NO. 50-266
CONTROL ROD WEAR
POINT BEACH NUCLEAR PLANT, UNIT 1

In an August 18, 1983 letter on Unit 2 control rod wear, we informed you that we would be inspecting Unit 1 control rods during the fall 1983, outage and that we would report the results of the inspection.

Westinghouse, the NSSS vendor, examined all 33 Unit 1 rod cluster control assemblies (RCCAs) in October, 1983 during a refueling/steam generator replacement outage. Westinghouse subsequently determined that 21 RCCAs may have wear exceeding allowable operational limits. The remaining 12 RCCAs were found acceptable for reuse.

The wear is similar to that found on Unit 2 RCCAs and is postulated to be a combination of two types. One is wear occurring as a result of RCCA stepping and trip insertion. The other is wear occurring as a result of vibratory interaction between rodlets and control rod guide tube cards and sheaths during long periods of steady-state power operation with the rods essentially fully withdrawn from the core.

Based on these findings, the Westinghouse recommendations included the following:

1. The 21 RCCAs with wear possibly exceeding allowable limits be replaced prior to continued operation.
2. The other 12 RCCAs be positioned in a new axial position as prescribed for Unit 2 to change the wear points.

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Mr. H. R. Denton

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The 21 RCCAs with wear possibly exceeding allowable limits were replaced with new RCCAs before continued operation of Unit 1. The 12 reinserted RCCAs were initially positioned in the new axial position as prescribed and will be repositioned as soon as Technical Specification Change Request No. 99 is approved. The 12 reinserted RCCAs will be reexamined during the next refueling outage. Additional Westinghouse recommendations are being studied.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact us.

Very truly yours,



Vice President-Nuclear Power

C. W. Fay

Copy to NRC Resident Inspector

