



Wisconsin Electric POWER COMPANY
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August 2, 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 NOS. 50-266 AND 50-301
LICENSED OPERATOR STAFFING UPDATE
POINT BEACH NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2

This letter is in response to your letter of March 26, 1984, that requested updates on a periodic basis concerning the progress made toward alleviating our shortage of licensed operators. As you know, Wisconsin Electric has been actively working to license additional operators at Point Beach Nuclear Plant. In June, two Reactor Operators were successfully upgraded to Senior Reactor Operators. These operators are now being phased into the shift complement as Operating Supervisors.

There are now five trainees being prepared for a Reactor Operator license examination to be administered on or about December 4, 1984. This is a decrease of one from the six specified in our February 14, 1984, letter. One individual has been transferred to Training to augment our resources in that area. He is now in training for a Senior Reactor Operator certification.

Based upon anticipated success in licensing these Reactor Operator candidates in December, 1984, we expect that adequate licensed operators will be available prior to March 1, 1985, to satisfy both our current license shortfall and the requirements of the staffing rule without undue overtime or reassignment. To date, we have continued to satisfy the requirements of the rule through personnel reassignment and overtime. We have not, as yet, exercised the compensatory action option, as delineated in your March 26, 1984 letter, when sufficient numbers of licensed operators were not available on a specific crew. However, we desire to keep that option available should the need arise between now and March 1, 1985. Please note that, although we do expect to have adequate licensed operators to satisfy the rule by March 1, 1985, sufficient extra licenses will not be available at that time to compensate for any unexpected attrition that might occur.

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Mr. R. Denton

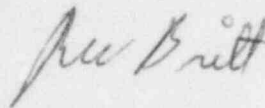
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In your letter of March 26, 1984 and the accompanying safety evaluation report, it appeared that the terms "Control Operator" and "Reactor Operator" were used interchangeably. Although these words can be used to describe the same individual under our current labor agreement, NRC's use of these words interchangeably creates semantic problems for us within our labor relations discussions on this topic. We request that, in the future, you use the term "Reactor Operator" rather than "Control Operator" when specifying an individual licensed by the NRC as a Reactor Operator.

We do not anticipate a substantial change in the number of licensed operators until after the scheduled Reactor Operator license examination in December of this year. In view of that and the time required for examination results to be returned, we plan to forward our next progress update after the results of this licensing activity are known rather than the December 1, 1984 date originally suggested. We anticipate this should be in mid-January, 1985.

Very truly yours,



President

R. W. Britt