



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

November 3, 1995

Docket
file
50-266/301

Mr. Robert E. Link, Vice President
Nuclear Power Department
Wisconsin Electric Power Company
231 West Michigan Street, Room P379
Milwaukee, WI 53201

SUBJECT: 60-DAY RESPONSE TO GENERIC LETTER 95-07 (TAC NOS. M93505 AND M93506)

On August 17, 1995, the NRC issued Generic Letter (GL) 95-07, "Pressure Locking and Thermal Binding of Safety-Related Power-Operated Gate Valves." This GL requested certain actions on a 90-day and 180-day schedule and a response within 60 days indicating the licensee's intended actions. By letter dated October 9, 1995, Wisconsin Electric Power Company (WEPCo) submitted its 60-day response to GL 95-07 for Point Beach Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2. In its response, WEPCo discussed the industry effort in developing screening criteria, previous screening efforts, and proposed an exception to the 90-day time period for basis documentation of identified potentially susceptible valves. Instead, WEPCo proposes to comply with all GL 95-07 actions and responses within 180 days.

In its 60-day response to GL 95-07, WEPCo proposed an alternative schedule. However, WEPCo has not provided an adequate safety basis for determining the acceptability of this planned alternative course of action, as requested by the GL. The staff established the recommended actions for the 90-day screening evaluation in GL 95-07 to provide confidence that no short-term safety concerns exist regarding particular valves as a result of pressure locking and thermal binding. The purpose of this action is for licensees to ensure that no critical deficiencies exist in past evaluations, and take action if appropriate. The essence of the 90-day screening evaluation is to conduct an initial assessment, using current knowledge, of all safety-related power-operated gate valves to assure they are operable should they be potentially susceptible to pressure locking or thermal binding.

The staff considers a prompt screening evaluation to be reasonable considering the length of time the industry has been aware of and had opportunity to take action for situations involving pressure locking and thermal binding. As described in GL 95-07, the staff has provided several notifications of this issue in the past two years. Additionally, notifications from the Institute for Nuclear Power Operations (INPO) include Significant Operating Experience Report 84-7, "Pressure Locking and Thermal Binding of Gate Valves," dated December 14, 1984, and INPO Significant Event Report 8-88, "Pressure Locking of Residual Heat Removal Gate Valves," dated March 25, 1988.

Based on our review, we do not find WEPCo's submittal to be fully responsive in that your reliance on previous evaluations, which may not have considered recent information, is contrary to the above stated purpose of the 90-day requested actions. In light of recent industry events involving pressure locking and thermal binding of safety-related power-operated gate valves, we conclude that the decision to defer the 90-day requested actions of GL 95-07

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does not allow WEPCo to assure itself of the current operability of these valves. Therefore, WEPCo is requested to commit to the 90-day requested actions of GL 95-07 or provide the safety basis for determining the acceptability of the proposed alternative course of action by November 15, 1995. Should you have any questions on this matter, please contact me at (301) 415-1390.

The information requested by this letter is within the scope of the overall burden estimated in GL 95-07, which was a maximum of 75 hours per response. This request is covered by the Office of Management and Budget Clearance Number 3150-0011, which expires July 31, 1997.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Allen G. Hansen, Project Manager
Project Directorate III-3
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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and 50-301

Enclosure: Safety Evaluation

cc: See next page

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Point Beach Nuclear Plant
Unit Nos. 1 and 2

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