

NOV 5 1984

Docket Nos. 50-266  
and 50-301

Mr. R. W. Britt, President  
Wisconsin Electric Power Company  
231 West Michigan Street  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53201

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Dear Mr. Britt:

This is in response to your letter of August 2, 1984 wherein you requested an extension of the deadline established in 10 CFR 50.49 for final environmental qualification of certain safety related electrical equipment at Point Beach Nuclear Plant Unit Nos. 1 and 2. You had previously requested extensions to the qualification deadline for certain other pieces of equipment by letters dated May 4, May 20, and June 22, 1983, which were granted by letter dated July 22, 1983. Other extensions were requested by letter dated October 10, 1983, which were granted by letter dated January 3, 1984.

10 CFR 50.49 established a deadline for final environmental qualification of safety related electrical equipment by the end of the second refueling outage following March 30, 1982, or March 31, 1985, whichever is earlier. The rule states that extensions to this deadline may be granted by the Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, for specific pieces of equipment, if the requests are filed on a timely basis and demonstrate good cause for the extension, such as procurement lead time, test complications and installation problems.

In your August 2, 1984 letter, you requested extensions from the deadlines for qualification of Crosby lift indicating switch assemblies (LISAs) which will be installed on the Unit 1 and 2 pressurizer safety valves, and Veam thermocouple connectors which are being installed on the Unit 1 and 2 Incore Thermocouple systems.

You state in your letter that, due to continued problems you have been experiencing in qualifying the LISAs using the original electrical interface design, you have revised the electrical interface design so that it now utilizes previously qualified sealed components (i.e., flexible conduit and connectors) which would prevent steam and chemical spray from coming in contact with the LISA electrical components. The new interface design provides greatly enhanced confidence that the LISAs will pass their qualification testing. This equipment is presently required to be environmentally qualified by the end of the fall 1984 refueling outage or November 2, 1984, whichever is earlier, for Point Beach Unit 2 and by the end of the spring 1985 refueling outage or May 24, 1985, whichever is earlier, for Point Beach Unit 1. The above dates represent previously granted extensions to the dates specified in 10 CFR 50.49 which were approved by letter dated January 3, 1984.

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The testing program for the LISAs using the new interface design was begun in July 1984 and is planned to be completed in December 1984. You have indicated that, because of the increased confidence that the new electrical interface design will pass the qualification testing, you still intend to install the as yet unqualified LISAs on the Unit 2 safety valves during the current Unit 2 refueling outage in accordance with your previously approved schedule. You also still intend to install the Unit 1 LISAs during the spring 1985 refueling outage. However, because of the delay in completion of the testing program, subsequent delays in preparing the Test Report and related plant specific qualification documentation, and a delay in the Unit 1 spring 1985 refueling outage, you have requested delay in the date for final environmental qualification of the LISAs until June 7, 1985 which coincides with the new scheduled end of the next Unit 1 refueling outage.

Further, you state that the electrical equipment environmental qualification upgrades for the Incore Thermocouple System (replacing connectors and cabling and relocating reference junction boxes to a mild environment) has been completed for Unit 1 and will be completed for Unit 2 during the current refueling outage. The seismic qualification of the Veam thermocouple connectors has been completed successfully. These components are required to be qualified by November 2, 1984 for Units 1 and 2. However, you state that the environmental testing of the connectors was halted prior to LOCA testing because the test cable used for the electrical interface to the test specimens appeared to have been damaged due to overaging during preconditioning tests. To preclude the damaged cable from jeopardizing the environmental testing of the connectors, you have decided to use new test specimens and testing plan to minimize damage during aging. The new specimens must undergo the entire sequence of testing and you expect testing to be complete by January 1985 with a final report issued in March of 1985. You have stated that your review of the report and related plant specific documentation will be completed by June 7, 1985. You have not requested these extensions before because you were only recently notified of the testing qualification difficulties for the associated equipment.

The extensions requested in your August 2, 1984 letter fall within the allowable extensions anticipated in the rule. As the delays in qualification relate primarily to documentation and not to installation and because you have a high degree of confidence that the equipment will pass its qualification tests, you have chosen not to delay installation from previously approved schedules to await final qualification. We concur in this decision.

Based on the above, we find that your request for extension was filed on a timely basis and demonstrates good cause for an extension of time to complete final environmental qualification of the Crosby lift indicating switch assemblies

and Veam thermocouple connectors for Point Beach Units 1 and 2. Therefore, as requested, an extension is granted until June 7, 1985 for final environmental qualification of the above electrical equipment.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.32, the Commission has determined that the granting of this deadline extension will have no significant impact on the environment (49 FR44255).

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

Harold R. Denton, Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc: See next page

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