



Wisconsin Electric POWER COMPANY
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February 12, 1985

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
CONTAINMENT INTEGRATED LEAKAGE RATE TESTING
POINT BEACH NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2

Wisconsin Electric Power Company, licensee for the Point Beach Nuclear Plant, has learned that the NRC's Region I office had questioned the validity of the October 1982 Integrated Leakage Rate Test (ILRT) at Maine Yankee Atomic Power Company's Maine Yankee plant. We understand that the NRC questioned whether or not the containment liner weld leak chase channels should be vented during the ILRT to demonstrate compliance with 10 CFR 50 Appendix J.

The containment liner design and construction at our Point Beach Nuclear Plant is similar to that at Maine Yankee insofar as the containment liner welds are covered by leak chase channels which are welded to the liner plate. These channels were not specifically addressed in the original liner plate analysis, were not intended to be vented to containment, and have not been vented during the containment ILRT's conducted at Point Beach. Upon review of this matter with regard to the new issue raised on the qualification and testing of leak chase channels, we have initiated a program to perform appropriate design reviews to determine the qualification of the channels. If it is determined that the channels do not qualify as part of the liner system, we will either proceed with a testing program or request appropriate relief from the requirements of 10 CFR 50 Appendix J. We will keep you informed of the results of this evaluation.

Very truly yours,

Vice President-Nuclear Power

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