

June 9, 1997

Mr. S. A. Patulski
Site Vice President
Point Beach Nuclear Plant
Wisconsin Electric Power Company
6610 Nuclear Road
Two Rivers, WI 54241

SUBJECT: NRC RADIATION PROTECTION INSPECTION REPORTS 50-266/97008
(DRS); 50-301/97008(DRS) AND NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Dear Mr. Patulski:

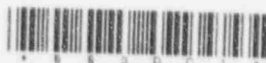
On May 9, 1997, the NRC completed an inspection at your Point Beach Nuclear Power Plant. The results of this inspection were discussed on that date with Mr. Fred Cayia and other members of your staff. The enclosed report presents the results of that inspection.

During this inspection, it was determined that your external dose control, solid rad waste, and transportation programs were effectively implemented. We are concerned, however, about two violations of NRC requirements that were identified. These violations are cited in the enclosed Notice of Violation (Notice), and the circumstances surrounding the violations are described in detail in the enclosed report.

In the first violation, your staff identified and reported through your condition reporting program that an individual had entered a high radiation area (HRA) boundary without being signed onto an appropriate radiation work permit (RWP). This was the seventh HRA control problem in the last two years, which indicates that your corrective actions to prior occurrences have been ineffective. During a management meeting on April 17, 1997, you indicated that previous HRA violations had been addressed individually rather than collectively. As a result of the last HRA violation, you performed a common cause analysis that determined there were several common causes to the violations including inadequate management expectations for worker performance and lack of management support for the radiation protection program, lack of communication, and inadequate work oversight. During the meeting you also indicated that corrective actions were being implemented as a result of the common cause analysis including reconfiguring the radiologically controlled area (RCA) access point to achieve better control of access to the RCA and improve communication between workers and health physics, increased worker oversight, and expressing management's expectations for radiation workers.

The NRC has concluded that information regarding the reason for the high radiation area boundary violation, the corrective actions taken and planned to correct the violation and prevent recurrence is already adequately addressed on the docket in a letter from Scott A. Patulski to the NRC, dated May 2, 1997. Therefore, you are not required to respond to this violation unless the description therein does not accurately reflect your corrective actions or your position. In that case, or if you choose to provide additional information, you should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice.

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June 9, 1997

In addition, a comprehensive audit of the health physics program was performed utilizing station and corporate staff along with individuals from outside your organization. This audit had identified several areas with minor deficiencies and provided recommendations to improve the program. At the time of the inspection, corrective actions in response to the recommendations were being implemented and will be reviewed during a future inspection.

In the second violation, NRC inspectors identified a failure to provide contract health physics technicians with hazmat training in accordance with Department of Transportation regulations. You are required to respond to the second violation discussed in this letter and should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice when preparing your response. The NRC will use your response, in part, to determine whether further enforcement action is necessary to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice, a copy of this letter, its enclosures, and your response to this letter will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

Sincerely,

/s/ John A. Grobe

John A. Grobe, Acting Director
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket No. 50-266

Docket No. 50-301

Enclosures: 1. Notice of Violation
2. Inspection Reports 50-266/97008(DRS); 50-301/97008(DRS)

cc w/encls: R. R. Grigg, President and
Chief Operating Officer, WEPCo
A. J. Cayia, Plant Manager
Virgil Kanable, Chief, Boiler Section
Cheryl L. Parrino, Chairman,
Wisconsin Public Service Commission
State Liaison Officer

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DATE	06/ /97	06/ /97	06/ /97	06/ /97	06/9/97

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Sincerely,

John A. Grobe, Acting Director
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket No. 50-266

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