

July 24, 1997

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-III-97-059

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information is as initially received without verification or evaluation, and is basically all that is known by Region III staff (Lisle, Illinois) on this date.

Facility	Licensee Emergency Classification
Wisconsin Electric Power Co.	Notification of Unusual Event
Point Beach 2	Alert
Two Rivers, Wisconsin	Site Area Emergency
Dockets: 50-301	General Emergency
	X Not Applicable

Subject: REACTOR COOLANT PUMP SEAL LEAK DELAYS UNIT 2 STARTUP

On July 23, 1997, the utility decided to delay the planned startup of Unit 2 to replace a leaking seal on the 'B' reactor coolant pump. Operations personnel had attempted to reduce the leakage from the seal by adjusting reactor coolant system pressure and the seal injection temperature and by stopping and restarting the pump. These efforts were unsuccessful.

Unit 2 had been expected to resume operations in mid-to-late July following a refueling and steam generator outage that began in October 1996. Early during the outage, the seals had been replaced; however, the pumps remained idle for much of the time, and the licensee was not able to effectively test the seals until they recently achieved elevated temperature and pressure. During the outage the utility had also completed 81 initiatives to improve the quality of operations, engineering, and maintenance. Unit 1 remains shut down as the utility has focussed its attention and resources on the Unit 2 restart.

The licensee now expects the Unit 2 restart to be in mid-August with a late August restart for Unit 1. The utility plans to issue a news announcement on the Unit 2 delay. There has been considerable media and public interest in the electrical power supply in Wisconsin with both Point Beach units out of service.

The State of Wisconsin will be notified. The information in this preliminary notification has been reviewed with utility management.

Region III (Chicago) was informed of the utility's decision to extend the Unit 2 outage at about 6 p.m. on July 23, 1997. This information is current as of 11 a.m. on July 24, 1997.

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