

September 11, 1998

Mr. M. Reddemann
Site Vice President
Point Beach Nuclear Plant
6610 Nuclear Road
Two Rivers, WI 54241

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT NO. 50-266/98013(DRS); 50-301/98013(DRS)
AND NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Dear Mr. Reddemann:

On July 16, 1998, the NRC completed a medium and low-voltage power circuit breaker inspection at your Point Beach Nuclear Power Plant. The enclosed report represents the results of that inspection.

The team inspection involved examination of maintenance and engineering related activities. Areas examined during the inspection are identified in the report. Within these areas, the inspection consisted of selective examination of vendor manuals, industry correspondence, calculations, test records, and procedures, and interviews with maintenance, engineering, and quality assurance staff.

The team identified a number of significant weaknesses in your electrical circuit breaker maintenance program that contributed to the poor material condition of installed low and medium voltage breakers. These included the routine omission of significant portions of specified electrical breaker maintenance requirements such as breaker inspection, cleaning, lubrication and adjustments; the use of unapproved breaker cleaners/lubricants; and the lack of a program for recording and trending breaker failures. The team was particularly concerned with the material condition of your safety related type DH breakers that have been in service since 1970.

The team identified three violations of NRC requirements as specified in the enclosed Notice of Violation (Notice). The first violation involved the failure to establish adequate design control measures to ensure that adequate control voltage was available for the close and trip coils of all safety-related electrical breakers in the plant. Until this issue was raised by the NRC team, calculations were not initiated to determine the lowest control voltages that would be available to the close and trip coils under the worst case accident conditions.

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Further, these coils were not tested to verify operation at the lower voltages. This is of particular concern since the voltage levels that you have determined to be actual worst case voltages are in some instances less than the manufacturer's rated voltage for the breaker close coils. The second violation involved the failure to establish adequate measures to ensure that only approved and authorized cleaning compounds and lubricants were used to clean and lubricate electrical breaker components. Consequently, unapproved cleaning compounds and lubricants were used to clean and lubricate the breakers. Use of unapproved cleaning compounds and lubricants contributes to hardened grease on the breaker components, which can adversely effect the ability of the breakers to perform. The third violation involved the failure to accomplish activities affecting quality during performance of routine maintenance in that significant portions of the safety related breaker preventive maintenance procedure requirements were inappropriately marked N/A (not applicable) and were not performed.

Your staff had recognized the need for improved breaker maintenance and had initiated corrective actions such as testing the breakers at a lower voltage and consultation with the breaker vendors for advise regarding the use of lubricants. We have noted that after you tested a series of breakers, you determined that the breakers were operable but degraded.

The NRC has concluded that information regarding the reason for the violations, the corrective actions taken and planned to correct the violations and prevent recurrence is already adequately documented in the enclosed Inspection Report No. 50-266/301-98013(DRS). Therefore, you are not required to respond to this letter (and the attached Notice) 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.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter, and its enclosures, and your response (if you choose to provide additional information) will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room (PDR).

We will gladly discuss any questions you have concerning this inspection.

Sincerely,

Original /s/ S. A/. Reynolds for

John A. Grobe, Director
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket Nos.: 50-266; 50-301
License Nos.: DPR-24; DPR-27

Enclosures: 1. Notice of Violation
2. Inspection Report No. 50-266/98013(DRS);
50-301/98013(DRS)

See Attached Distribution

DOCUMENT NAME: G:DRS\POI98013.DRS **SEE PREVIOUS CONCURRENCE**

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DATE	09/ /98		09/ /98		09/ /98		09// /98	

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Further, these coils were not tested to verify operation at the lower voltages. This is of particular concern since the voltage levels that you have now determined to be actual worst case voltages are in some instances less than the manufacturer's rated voltage for the breaker close coils. The second violation involved failure to establish adequate measures to ensure that only approved and authorized cleaning compounds and lubricants were used to clean and lubricate electrical breaker components. Consequently, unapproved cleaning compounds and lubricants were used to clean and lubricate the breakers. Use of unapproved cleaning compound and lubricants contributes to hardened grease on the breaker components. The third violation involved failure to accomplish activities affecting quality during performance of routine maintenance, in that significant portions of the safety related breaker preventive maintenance procedure requirements were inappropriately marked N/A (not applicable) and were not performed.

We understand that your staff had recognized the need for improved breaker maintenance and had initiated corrective actions such as testing the breakers at a lower voltage and sending the lubricants for laboratory analysis.

The NRC has concluded that information regarding the reason for the violation, the corrective actions taken and planned to correct the violation and prevent recurrence is already adequately addressed on the docket in the enclosed Inspection Report No. 50-266/301-98013(DRS). Therefore, you are not required to respond to this letter 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.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter, and its enclosures, and your response (if you choose to provide additional information) will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room (PDR).

We will gladly discuss any questions you have concerning this inspection.

Sincerely,

John A. Grobe, Director
Division of Reactor Safety

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DATE	09/1/98		09/1/98 <i>for</i>		09/1/98		09/1/98	

cc w/encls: R. Grigg, President and Chief
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