

September 15, 1988

Docket Nos. 50-266
and 50-2

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Mr. C. W. Fay, Vice President
Nuclear Power Department
Wisconsin Electric Power Company
231 W. Michigan Street, Room 308
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53201

Dear Mr. Fay:

SUBJECT: CONTAINMENT LEAK CHASE CHANNELS (TAC'S 63152 AND 63153)

We have reviewed the information you have submitted to date regarding the containment leak chase channels at Point Beach 1 and 2. The NRC position on this matter is that containment liner weld channels should be vented to the containment atmosphere during the integrated leak rate test (ILRT) to permit the detection of potential leak paths in the primary containment liner welds. However, if you can demonstrate that channels would maintain their integrity when subjected to the loading conditions of a postulated design basis accident as well as during normal operation and that the design for the new pressure boundary of the containment would compare favorably with the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel (B&PV) Code, Section III, Division 1, Subsection MC requirements, the channels need not be vented.

Based on the review of the information submitted to date, we find that there is not sufficient data to demonstrate that the leak chase channel system can be qualified as an integral part of the containment liner plate. In order to redefine the pressure boundary of the containment, we suggest that you compare the ASME B&PV Code, Section III, Division 1, Subsection MC requirements, item by item, with what has been done in the program. We will accept the request not to vent the leak chase channels to perform the ILRT when all comparisons are favorably and satisfactorily made.

Sincerely

ISI

Warren H. Swenson, Project Manager
Project Directorate III-3
Division of Reactor Projects - III,
IV, V and Special Projects

cc: See next page

Office: LA/PDI-3
Surname: PKreutzer
Date: 9/18/88

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Mr. C. W. Fay
Wisconsin Electric Power Company

Point Beach Nuclear Plant
Units 1 and 2

cc:

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