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U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
Mail Stop P1-137
Washington, D.C. 20555

Gentlemen:

DOCKET NOS. 50-266 AND 50-301
RESPONSE TO BULLETIN 88-08,
THERMAL STRESSES IN PIPING CONNECTED TO THE RCS
POINT BEACH NUCLEAR PLANT UNITS 1 AND 2

NRC Bulletin 88-08, "Thermal Stresses in Piping Connected to Reactor Coolant Systems," requests that licensees review plant reactor coolant systems (RCS) to identify any connected, unisolable piping that could be subjected to temperature distribution which would result in unacceptable thermal stresses. If such piping is identified, licensees are required to take action to ensure that the piping will not be subjected to unacceptable thermal stresses. This letter is our report on the results of our review of the systems connected to the RCS at our Point Beach Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2, and includes our commitments and schedules for completing Action Items 2 and 3 from the Bulletin.

In reviewing the lists of all piping connected to the RCS that is not isolated from primary system pressure, we identified two lines that have the potential to be subjected to stresses from temperature stratification or temperature oscillations that could be induced by leaking isolation or check valves. These lines are the 2-inch auxiliary charging line and the 2-inch auxiliary spray line. These lines can be identified on FSAR Figures 4.2-1, "RCS Process Flow Diagram" and 9.2-1, "Chemical and Volume Control System." If the isolation valves associated with these lines, CV-1296 and CV-296 respectively, were to leak, it is possible that the charging pumps could force relatively cold charging water through these lines and into the RCS. This condition has the potential to create a thermal gradient in these lines which could result in thermal stresses as discussed in Bulletin 88-08. This situation is applicable to both Point Beach Nuclear Plant units.

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As required by Action Item 2, we are planning to nondestructively examine the unisolable sections of piping on each of these lines during the next unit refueling outages to provide assurance that there are no existing flaws. The next Point Beach Unit 2 refueling outage is scheduled from October 7 to November 18, 1988. It is also our intention to provide, at that time, instrumentation on the piping appropriate to detect adverse temperature distributions. The need for these activities will be evaluated for Point Beach Unit 1 taking into consideration the results of the Unit 2 inspections, testing, and analyses. The details of the modifications necessary to provide this instrumentation are presently being engineered.

As required by the bulletin, we shall send you a letter within 30 days of the completion of Actions 2 and 3 on Point Beach Nuclear Plant Unit 2. That letter will discuss the results of our examination and will also include our plans for Unit 1 during the spring 1989 outage. Should you desire additional information concerning our activities in this regard, please feel free to call us.

Very truly yours,

C. W. Fay
Vice President
Nuclear Power

Copies to NRC Regional Administrator, Region III
NRC Resident Inspector