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U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
Document Control Desk
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Gentlemen:

DOCKET 50-301
CYCLE 15 RELOAD
POINT BEACH NUCLEAR PLANT, UNIT 2

A refueling shutdown is scheduled for the Point Beach Nuclear Plant, Unit 2, at the end of Unit 2 Cycle 14 operation on October 7, 1988. Cycle 14 burnup will be approximately 10,900 MWD/MTU. Point Beach Unit 2 startup for Cycle 15 is expected to occur in November 1988 following a six-week refueling and maintenance outage.

Reload Region 17 for Unit 2 Cycle 15 operation will contain 28 Westinghouse 14 x 14 Optimized Fuel Assemblies (OFA). This will be the fifth reload region of OFA fuel inserted into the Unit 2 core. The use of OFA fuel at Point Beach Nuclear Plant was reviewed and approved, as reported in the NRC Nuclear Safety Evaluation Report issued on October 5, 1984, in support of License Amendment 90 (Technical Specification Change Request 87) for Unit 2.

The mechanical and thermal-hydraulic designs for the Unit 2 Cycle 15 reload core are similar to those of previously reviewed and accepted reload designs containing OFA fuel. This core is designed to operate under nominal design parameters and the approved Technical Specifications, including those provided with License Amendment 90 for Unit 2, so that the core characteristics will be less limiting than those previously reviewed and accepted. For those postulated accidents presented in the FSAR which could be affected by the reload core, re-evaluation has demonstrated that the results of the postulated events are within allowable limits. The reload core meets the current F_QxP limit of 2.21 and the current F-delta-H limit of 1.58.

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In accordance with past practice, the Westinghouse reload safety evaluation report relies on previously reviewed and accepted analyses as reported in the FSAR, in the OFA transition safety reports, and in earlier reload cycle safety evaluation reports. The reload safety evaluation report for Unit 2 Cycle 15 demonstrates that no unreviewed safety questions, as defined in 10 CFR 50.59, are involved in the operation of Unit 2 during Cycle 15. No application for license amendments beyond those already approved by the NRC in License Amendment 90 are, therefore, required for Cycle 15 operation. A 10 CFR 50.59 safety evaluation will be confirmed by the Manager's Supervisory Staff prior to startup of Cycle 15. Verification of the core design will be performed by means of the standard startup physics tests normally conducted at the beginning of each cycle.

Please contact us if you have any questions regarding the Cycle 15 reload design or operation.

Very truly yours,

C. W. Fay
Vice President
Nuclear Power

Copy to NRC Regional Administrator-Region III
Resident Inspector