



Point Beach Nuclear Plant  
6610 Nuclear Rd., Two Rivers, WI 54241

(920) 755-2321

NPL 98-0988

November 30, 1998

Document Control Desk  
U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
Mail Station P1-137  
Washington, DC 20555

Ladies/Gentlemen:

DOCKETS 50-266 AND 50-301  
NRC GENERIC LETTER 96-04  
"BORAFLEX DEGRADATION IN SPENT FUEL POOL STORAGE RACKS"  
SECOND UPDATE TO BORAFLEX TESTING  
POINT BEACH NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2

This letter provides a second update to Wisconsin Electric Power Company's (WE) initial response to Generic Letter 96-04, dated October 23, 1996. WE previously updated its original response to this generic letter to include September 1996 test results via letter number NPL 97-0587, dated December 18, 1997.

As described in the December 18, 1997 letter, the 1996 blackness test results for cells N-40 and P-40 contained unreliable information, and WE planned to repeat these tests to resolve the questionable results. Accordingly, the December 18, 1997 letter contained a commitment to "Upon successful completion of retesting of the two panels in question, we will submit a summary of those results. If the results indicate significant boraflex degradation, our summary will also identify corrective actions implemented." This letter reports the results of the retesting and therefore satisfies that commitment.

Blackness testing of Point Beach spent fuel pool racks was conducted on August 13, 1998, to eliminate the uncertainties encountered in the 1996 test results. The uncertainties were successfully resolved by retesting the cells in question. All test data traces were typical of other traces, with no evidence of significant gaps.

The 1998 tests have removed the uncertainties associated with the 1996 tests and show that the boraflex in cells N-40 and P-40 was intact and capable of performing its intended function.

In summary, no measurable gaps or significant degradation of boraflex panels has been detected at Point Beach Nuclear Plant. In-situ blackness testing of at least 10 full-length boraflex panels every five years will be continued under the current boraflex surveillance program. The next blackness test campaign is anticipated for the summer of 2001.

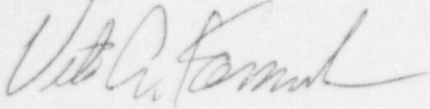
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Wisconsin Energy Corporation

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We believe this information is responsive to the commitment contained in WE's previous update to Generic Letter 96-04 (dated December 18, 1997). Please contact us if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

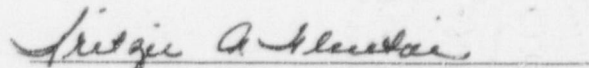


Vito A. Kaminskas  
Manager,  
Regulatory Services & Licensing

MAW/tja

cc: NRC Resident Inspector  
NRC Project Manager  
NRC Regional Administrator

Subscribed and sworn before me on  
this 30<sup>th</sup> day of December, 1998.

  
Notary Public, State of Wisconsin

My commission expires Sept 16, 2001