

February 19, 1998

Mr. S. A. Patulski
Site Vice President
Point Beach Nuclear Plant
Wisconsin Electric Power Company
6610 Nuclear Road
Two Rivers, WI 54241

SUBJECT: POINT BEACH NRC NOTICE OF VIOLATION AND INSPECTION REPORT
NO. 50-266/97023(DRS); 50-301/97023(DRS)

Dear Mr. Patulski:

On November 7, 1997, the NRC completed an inspection at your Point Beach 1 and 2 reactor facilities. This inspection evaluated the effectiveness of your staff's controls in identifying, resolving, and preventing problems. It also reviewed the safety evaluation process for compliance with the requirements of 10 CFR 50.59. Finally, the inspection reviewed corrective actions to several of the issues identified during the Operational Safety Team Inspection conducted in late 1996. The enclosed report presents the results of our inspection.

Overall, the inspection noted many positives in the performance of plant staff. In particular, initiatives to address performance issues in plant operations resulted in improvement in control room command and control. Maintenance procedures contained the necessary post-maintenance testing required to assure adequate return-to-service of equipment. In the engineering area, safety evaluation training and procedural upgrades were considered to be successful, based upon the quality of the safety evaluations reviewed.

Additionally, the quality assurance audits and self-assessments appeared thorough and provided a critical review of the areas assessed. However, the inspection did identify a need to better prioritize and manage the large volume of issues entered into the corrective action program. While the quality assurance organization identified several good issues, your staff's handling of the issues was not always timely, lacked priority, and did not address specifics. The inspection also noted deficiencies in handling some important operating experience reviews. Finally, although overall improvements in control room operator performance were noted, performance during the low-temperature overpressure protection event was less than adequate.

Based on the results of this inspection, the NRC has determined that violations of NRC requirements occurred. These violations are cited in the enclosed Notice of Violation (Notice) and the circumstances surrounding them are described in detail in the subject inspection report. The violations involved two examples of failure to follow procedure, two examples where the final safety analysis report was not updated, and identification that uncalibrated equipment was used during performance of a technical specification surveillance. You are required to respond to this letter and should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice when preparing your response. The NRC will use your response, in part, to determine whether further enforcement action is necessary to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements.



February 19, 1998

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

Sincerely,

/s/J.A. Grobe

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. 50-266/97023(DRS);
50-301/97023(DRS)

cc w/encs: R. R. Grigg, President and
Chief Operating Officer, WEPCo
A. J. Cayia, Plant Manager
B. D. Burks, P.E., Director
Bureau of Field Operations
Cheryl L. Parrino, Chairman,
Wisconsin Public Service Commission
State Liaison Officer

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