

Mr. Michael B. Sellman  
Senior Vice President and  
Chief Nuclear Officer  
Wisconsin Electric Power Company  
231 West Michigan Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53201

February 22, 1999

SUBJECT POINT BEACH NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2 - ASSESSMENT OF THE  
DESIGN INFORMATION ON PIPING RESTRAINTS

Dear Mr. Sellman:

By letter dated April 16, 1998, the NRC informed Wisconsin Electric (WE) that it was performing a review of records related to the design of restraints on the main steam (MS) piping and primary loop auxiliary piping systems at the Point Beach Nuclear Plant (PBNP). Specific requests for information were included in an enclosure to the April 16, 1998, letter. On June 15, 1998, WE responded to the request for information based on available records and your staff's recollection of original design aspects requested in the NRC staff's inquiry. As a follow up to this assessment activity, the staff visited WE corporate offices on October 15 and 16, 1998, to review relevant design records and interview WE representatives. Duke Engineering and Services (DE&S) was recently contracted by WE to perform an independent evaluation of the existing MS piping at PBNP to confirm the adequacy of restraint design in the MS piping system.

Based on this review, the staff concludes that WE was unable to retrieve the original analyses that may have been performed to justify the removal of the shim collars in the early 1970s, and hence, the staff cannot conclude whether or not their removal was justified in consideration of the licensing-basis requirements at that time. However, based on the recent evaluations of the MS piping examined by the staff, WE has provided adequate technical justification for the removal of certain shim collars in the MS piping restraints. The staff also finds that WE has provided a reasonable basis to confirm the structural adequacy of the current as-built configuration of the MS and auxiliary piping systems.

An assessment detailing the staff's review of design information on piping restraints at PBNP is enclosed. If you have any further questions regarding this issue, please contact me at (301) 415-1355.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Beth A. Wetzel, Senior Project Manager  
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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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Docket Nos. 50-266 and 50-301

Enclosure: Assessment

cc w/assmt: See next page

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Point Beach Nuclear Plant  
Units 1 and 2

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