



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION III
801 WARRENVILLE ROAD
LISLE, ILLINOIS 60532-4151

March 10, 1999

Mr. M. Reddemann
Site Vice President
Point Beach Nuclear Plant
6610 Nuclear Road
Two Rivers, WI 54241

SUBJECT: POINT BEACH INSPECTION REPORT 50-266/99002(DRP);
50-301/99002(DRP) AND NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Dear Mr. Reddemann:

On February 22, 1999, the NRC completed an inspection at your Point Beach Unit 1 and Unit 2 reactor facilities. The enclosed inspection report presents the results of that inspection.

During the 7-week period covered by this inspection, the conduct of activities at Point Beach was generally characterized by a safety-conscious operating philosophy. For instance, plant staff responded promptly to an industry operating experience bulletin and shut down Unit 1 to make precautionary repairs to safety-related electrical circuit breakers. However, there were several instances where plant staff performance did not measure up to your standards. In one instance, plant staff did not promptly recognize generic weaknesses in the program for controlling the use of lubricants, and in another instance, operator response to an unexpected loss of power to safety-related electrical busses was not focused on re-energizing the bus. The facility also experienced a higher than normal number of post-maintenance problems with equipment important to safety, one of which involved the failure to exclude foreign material from the charging system. The response to each problem was generally thorough. However, the problems collectively reflected a gap between your standards for performance and some aspects of the plant staff's implementation of your policies and programs.

Based on the results of this inspection, the NRC has determined that three violations of NRC requirements occurred. One violation is associated with your program for implementing abnormal and emergency operating procedures. The violation is cited in the enclosed Notice of Violation (Notice), and the circumstances surrounding it are described in detail in the subject inspection report. The violation is of concern because it was inspector-identified and it deals with procedure use and adherence, an area of enforcement action within the last 2 years. The other two violations are non-cited violations and are discussed in the inspection report.

The NRC has concluded that information regarding the reason for the cited violation and the corrective actions taken and planned to correct the violation and prevent recurrence is already adequately addressed on the docket, in the enclosed inspection report. Therefore, you are not required to respond to this letter unless the description therein does not accurately reflect your corrective actions or your position. In that case, or if you choose to provide additional information, you should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice.

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

Sincerely,

/s/Roger D. Lanksbury

Roger D. Lanksbury, Chief
Reactor Projects Branch 5

Docket Nos.: 50-266; 50-301
License Nos.: DPR-24, DPR-27

Enclosures: 1. Notice of Violation
2. Inspection Report
50-266/99002(DRP);
50-301/99002(DRP)

cc w/encls: R. Grigg, President and Chief
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M. Sellman, Senior Vice President,
Chief Nuclear Officer
R. Mende, Plant Manager
J. O'Neill, Jr., Shaw, Pittman,
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