



Point Beach Nuclear Plant  
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NPL 98-0211

March 23, 1998

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

Ladies/Gentlemen:

DOCKETS 50-266 AND 50-301  
PART LENGTH CRDM HOUSING ISSUE  
POINT BEACH NUCLEAR PLANT, UNIT 1 AND 2

In a letter to Mr. Frank J. Miraglia, Deputy Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, dated March 6, 1998, (OG-98-037) the Westinghouse Owners Group (WOG) responded to the NRC's formal request to activate the Regulatory Response Group (RRG) and address concerns regarding the generic implications of the part length control rod drive mechanism (CRDM) housing issue identified at Prairie Island Unit 2. That letter documented the information provided by the WOG during a meeting with the NRC on February 27, 1998. At that meeting the WOG presented information regarding the current assessment of the CRDM housing issue and the activities planned to pursue resolution of this potential generic issue.

The affected WOG member utilities met on March 2, 1998, to review and discuss the information presented to the NRC. From the discussions at that meeting, the WOG RRG recommended that the affected utilities voluntarily consider notifying the NRC of their plans to address this issue. For plants currently in refueling or cold shutdown, it was recommended that the utilities docket their plans to address this issue within 30 days, or prior to startup. For those units continuing to operate with part length CRDM housings installed, it was further recommended that the plant operators increase reactor coolant system leakage monitoring awareness and identify how this is being accomplished in their individual response letters.

This letter provides our present plans for addressing the CRDM housing issue at the Point Beach Nuclear Plant. Both of our Point Beach Nuclear Plant units are currently in a shutdown condition. Unit 1 was shutdown on February 27, 1998, for its annual refueling outage. Unit 1 is presently in refueling shutdown and defueled. An unplanned shutdown of Unit 2 occurred on March 6, 1998, in order to address design basis evaluations concerning the component cooling water (CCW) system. The Unit presently is in cold shutdown pending repairs to a CCW system check valve.

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In response to this emerging industry issue we have decided to remove the part length CRDM housings during our current Unit 1 refueling outage. We essentially plan to make a similar repair as was done at Prairie Islands by capping the reactor head penetrations. We will attend another meeting on March 23, 1998, with other affected WOG member utilities to further discuss modifications and analyses which may resolve this issue. Following this meeting, we expect to be able to finalize our repair plans for Unit 1 and proceed to perform necessary analyses and modifications to remove the part length CRDM housings during our current refueling outage. At this time we still anticipate that Unit 1 will be ready for return to power on approximately June 1, 1998.

Our plans for Point Beach Unit 2 are to return the Unit to power in the near future immediately following repair of the CCW check valve and disposition of the CCW system design basis evaluation issue. Unit 2 is currently scheduled for its annual refueling shutdown in September 1998. Our specific plans to address the CRDM housing issue for Unit 2 will be based upon the results of the removal of the CRDM housings from Unit 1 and on analyses and lessons learned from other affected WOG member utilities. We expect that WOG and the utilities will continue to develop the details of a an integrated plan to address this issue which will held define specific actions which we may take to resolve this issue on Unit 2 during our planned Fall 1998 refueling outage. We will update you concerning our plans for addressing this issue for Unit 2 during the Fall 1998 outage as soon as these plans have been finalized.

As suggested in WOG letter OG-98-037, we have already taken actions to increase reactor coolant system leakage monitoring awareness. In accordance with our condition reporting procedure, an operability determination for continued operation of Point Beach Nuclear Plant Unit 2 was completed on February 13, 1998, in response to the INPO operating experience notification concerning the Prairie Island incident (OE 8776). To account for this potential issue at Point Beach Nuclear Plant the following compensatory actions have been taken:

- OI-55, Primary Leakrate Calculation has been changed to lower the threshold of operator actions to 0.5 gpm RCS leakage and to enter AOP-1A, "Reactor Coolant Leak". Calculations are currently performed daily, unless leakrate increases to 0.2 gpm at which point shiftly calculations are required.
- AOP-1A initial entry condition changed to enter procedure when a 0.5 gpm RCS leak is calculated.
- The Radiation Monitoring System Alarm Setpoint and Response Book for 2RE-211 and 2RE-212, containment gaseous and air particulate monitors, has been changed to administratively restrict voluntary LCO time to 24 hours and to perform grab samples or perform a leakrate calculation shiftly if the monitors are out of service for any reason.
- Unit 2 Volume Control Tank level alarm response references OI-55 if an RCS leak is suspected.

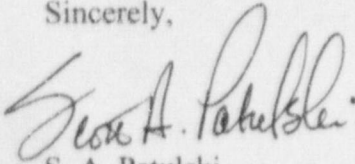
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- When a Unit 2 sump A high level alarm occurs and calculated RCS leakage from an unknown source is equal to or greater than 0.2 gpm, a sample is required.
- Each crew has been briefed on OE-8776 and these PBNP contingencies.

We shall continue to keep you advised of our plans in this manner. Please contact us with any questions you may have concerning our plans in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "S. A. Patulski". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and a distinct "P".

S. A. Patulski  
Site Vice President

CWK/lad

cc: NRC Resident Inspector  
NRC Regional Administrator  
NRC Project Manager