

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

April 17, 1998

SUBJECT: POINT BEACH NUCLEAR PLANT, UNIT 1 - EVALUATION OF PROPOSED
ALTERNATIVE TO THE ASME CODE SURFACE EXAMINATION OF PART-
LENGTH CONTROL ROD DRIVE MECHANISM REACTOR VESSEL HEAD
PENETRATION SEAL WELDS (TAC NO. MA1401)

Dear Mr. Sellman:

By letter dated April 3, 1998, Wisconsin Electric (WE) Power Company proposed an alternative to the surface examination requirements of paragraph N-518.4 of the 1965 American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code. The proposed alternative would be used in conjunction with four nonstructural seal welds on threaded caps for the Unit 1 reactor vessel head penetrations for the part-length control rod drive mechanisms (CRDMs) after the CRDMs are removed.

The staff has completed its review of WE's request and concludes that the proposed alternative to the ASME Code for surface examination of the seal welds on threaded caps for the reactor vessel head penetrations for the part-length CRDMs will provide an acceptable level of quality and safety. The proposed alternative inspection is authorized pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(a)(3)(i) and is acceptable for the four stated repairs at Point Beach, Unit 1. Authorization of the alternative does not extend to future use without prior staff approval. If similar repairs are necessary for the Unit 2 penetrations in the future, a separate relief request must be submitted.

The safety evaluation supporting our finding is enclosed. If you have any questions concerning this action please contact Linda Gundrum at (301) 415-1380.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY
Tae J. Kim for

Cynthia A. Carpenter, Director
Project Directorate III-1
Division of Reactor Projects - III/IV
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-266

Enclosure: Safety Evaluation

cc w/encl: See next page

DISTRIBUTION: See attached page

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*See previous concurrence

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DATE	04/17/98		04/17/98		04/19/98		04/17/98	04/17/98

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Mr. Michael B. Sellman
Wisconsin Electric Power Company

Point Beach Nuclear Plant
Units 1 and 2

cc:

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March 1998

DISTRIBUTION FOR POINT BEACH UNIT 1 RELIEF REQUEST

DATED: April 17, 1998

Docket File (50-266)

PUBLIC

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