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Notice of Intent to Conduct Scoping Process and Prepare Environmental Impact Statement NextEra Energy Point Beach, LLC; Point Beach Nuclear Plant, Unit Nos. 1 and 2

Comment On: NRC-2020-0277-0001

Notice of Intent To Conduct Scoping Process and Prepare Environmental Impact Statement; NextEra Energy Point Beach, LLC, Point Beach Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2

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General Comment

On slide #9 in its slideshow at the NRC's Feb. 17, 2021 call-in/webinar public comment meeting, NRC stated that Operating Experience (OE) is one of several bases for NRC's Safety Review of NextEra's proposal to operate Point Beach for 80 years.

Point Beach's OE leaves a lot to be desired. This century, the two reactors at Point Beach, in certain years, had a majority of the NRC's "red findings" -- the agency's highest safety violation designation, amongst the entire U.S. fleet of operating reactors -- then numbering 104 -- combined.

Similarly, at the very same time, WI's Kewaunee reactor -- a short distance from Point Beach (about the same distance as between the now infamous Fukushima Daiichi and Daini nuclear power plants in Japan) -- had a majority of the NRC's "yellow findings," the agency's second highest risk designation, more than the rest of the 103 operating reactors combined.

Kewaunee's permanent closure was announced in late 2012, and implemented in early 2013. In fact, Kewaunee's closure commenced a record-breaking number of atomic reactor shutdowns across the U.S. since.

Another such reactor that has closed for good, Fort Calhoun in Nebraska, was given a red finding in the aftermath of a climate change-induced natural disaster: historic flooding on the Missouri River in the spring and summer of 2011. Fort Calhoun never recovered, and was permanently shut down.

Given Point Beach's very bad OE, and the ever increasing risks of breakdown phase age-related degradation accidents and disasters, shouldn't Point Beach simply be shut down for good, and replaced with safer, cleaner, more secure, more affordable renewables sources, such as wind power and solar power, as well as efficiency and energy storage, such as batteries and compressed air energy storage? This

is readily achievable, considering the decade or longer left on the two Point Beach reactors' 60-year operating licenses. A decade or longer is plenty of time to achieve such a just energy transition in WI. Especially so, when considering that WI hosts the cutting edge Midwest Renewable Energy Association and its annual Fair.

The supplemental license extension, allowing 80 years of operations at Point Beach, should not be permitted, given its bad OE, and the additional degradation this likely inflicted on the aged reactors' safety-significant systems, structures, and components.

Sincerely,

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Beyond Nuclear aims to educate and activate the public about the connections between nuclear power and nuclear weapons and the need to abolish both to safeguard our future. Beyond Nuclear advocates for an energy future that is sustainable, benign and democratic.