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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

(Beyond Nuclear, public comment #8, Part 2 of 2)

November 18, 1997

Point Beach Unit 2 was hastily shut down because of electrical problems. --Milwaukee Jrnl Sntl, Nov. 18, 1997

August 12, 1997

The NRC recorded 21 violations at Point Beach in the 90-day period between Dec. 1996 and Feb. 1997.-- St. Paul Pioneer Press, Aug. 12, 1997

July 25, 1997

Reactor 2 at Point Beach was shutdown when a cooling water pump failed. --Milwaukee Jrnl Sntl, Aug. 25, 1997

February 18, 1997

Reactor 1 at Point Beach was shut down when a cooling water pump defect required the pump's replacement.

December 1996

Point Beach owner WEPCO was fined \$325,000 for 16 safety violations and a 1996 explosion inside a loaded high-level waste cask. The NRC said WEPCO was "inattentive to their duties," "starting up a power unit while one of its safety systems was inoperable," and had failed to install "the required number of cooling pumps." --Milwaukee Jrnl Sntl, Aug. 12, 1997, and Dec. 5, 1996

May 28, 1996

At Point Beach, a potentially catastrophic explosion of hydrogen gas, "powerful enough to up-end the three-ton lid," pushed aside a 6,390-pound cask lid while it was atop a storage cask filled with high-level waste. The lid was being robotically welded to the cask.--Milwaukee Jrnl Sntl, June 8, 1995

March 30, 1995

A Point Beach reactor was shut down due to instrument failure in the emergency generator system used to circulate cooling water when regular power is cut off during emergencies. --Wisconsin State Journal, March 30, 1995

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I have to point out the irony, at the Feb. 17, 2021 NRC call-in/webinar, of the NRC facilitator interrupting Kelly Lundeen of Nukewatch WI, because her verbal recitation of the listing of incidents at Point Beach, above, was taking too long. Whose fault is that? It is Point Beach's fault. And yet they want an 80 year operational permit. And NRC appears poised to rubber-stamp it. No questions asked. (Besides, NRC ended the meeting early, even before its announced ending time, so no public commenters should have been pressured to limit their remarks.)

And my colleague Mitchell Maricque informed me of the following Point Beach OE as well:

According to Wikipedia, "Due to steam generator tube degradation caused by intergranular stress corrosion cracking, Unit 1 was operated at approximately 75-80% of full power from December 1979 until October 1983, when replacement steam generators were installed. The Unit 2 steam generators were replaced in 1996-1997."

This is abysmal OE. Not only has it undermined public trust and confidence in the safe operation of Point Beach, but some of the incidents may have even degraded safety significant systems, structures, and components. Because of this abysmal OE, Point Beach should be denied 80 years of operations. It is too high risk. It is playing with fire. Only so many radioactive bullets can be dodged. Some day, luck may run out.

Sincerely,

Kevin Kamps

Beyond Nuclear, Radioactive Waste Specialist; Don't Waste Michigan, Board of Directors Member, representing the Lake Michigan Chapter; Citizens for Alternatives to Chemical Contamination, Advisory Board Member

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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.