

November 17, 1999

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

SUBJECT: POINT BEACH INSPECTION REPORT 50-266/99016(DRP);
50-301/99016(DRP)

Dear Mr. Reddemann:

This refers to the inspection conducted on August 31 through October 18, 1999, at the Point Beach Nuclear facility. The enclosed report presents the results of the inspection.

During this inspection period, the performance of operators in the control room was very good. A strong safety focus and the appropriate use of procedures were evident. However, we have determined that an operating crew failed to enter a required Technical Specification action statement during the previous inspection period. This failure occurred because the crew did not recognize the containment integrity function, as described in the Final Safety Analysis Report, of an inoperable valve. In addition, plant staff performed a thorough review of the system and component level design basis for strainers in the safety-related service water (SW) system following an inspector-identified concern with the adequacy of system procedures. In reviewing this issue, plant staff identified that existing automatic and operator actions were inadequate to ensure that SW system operability would be maintained under all system flow conditions and allowed differential pressures across the strainers. While plant staff response to the inspectors' concern was excellent, we note that there had been prior opportunity to self-identify this issue during validation of the SW system flow model.

Also, during this inspection period, your plant staff performed a chlorine dioxide treatment of the SW system to address potential problems with zebra mussels. Plant staff had concluded that zebra mussels killed by the treatment would affect only single trains of safety-related equipment. Based upon this conclusion, plant staff had provided limited acceptance criteria for monitoring the effects of the treatment. Dead zebra mussels actually affected multiple trains of containment fan coolers and both "A" train emergency diesel generators. Dead zebra mussels were also found in other portions of the SW system where they had not been expected. Adequate monitoring of safety-related component operability was only initiated following questions by the inspectors, unexpectedly rapid operability impacts on plant equipment, and strong intervention by a Duty Shift Supervisor. We are concerned that the planning process for this evolution failed to adequately anticipate the extent of safety-related component plugging actually experienced. We understand that you have initiated a high-level review of this evolution, and we will closely monitor the results of your corrective actions.

PDR A. DOCK

Based on the results of this inspection, the NRC has determined that two violations of NRC requirements occurred. These violations are being treated as Non-Cited Violations (NCVs), consistent with Section VII.B.1.a of the Enforcement Policy. These NCVs are described in the subject inspection report. If you contest the violation or severity level of these NCVs, you should provide a response within 30 days of the date of this inspection report, with the basis for your denial, to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, ATTN: Document Control Desk, Washington DC 20555-0001, with a copy to the Regional Administrator, Region III, and the Director, Office of Enforcement, United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001.

In addition, an apparent violation was identified and is being considered for escalated enforcement action in accordance with the "General Statement of Policy and Procedure for NRC Enforcement Actions" (Enforcement Policy), NUREG-1600. The apparent violation pertained to the lack of acceptance criteria for a recent chorine dioxide treatment of the service water system to kill zebra mussels. Accordingly, no Notice of Violation is presently being issued for this inspection finding. In addition, please be advised that the number and characterization of the apparent violation described in the enclosed inspection report may change as a result of further NRC review.

You will be advised by separate correspondence of the results of our deliberations on this matter. No response regarding the apparent violation is required at this time.

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

Sincerely,

/s/Roger Lanksbury

Roger Lanksbury, Chief
Reactor Projects Branch 5

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

Enclosure: Inspection Report 50-266/99016(DRP);
50-301/99016(DRP)

See Attached Distribution

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M. Reddemann

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