

February 21, 2001

EA-00-225

Mr. Mark Reddemann
Site Vice President
Kewaunee and Point Beach Nuclear Plants
Nuclear Management Company, LLC
6610 Nuclear Road
Two Rivers, WI 54241

SUBJECT: FINAL SIGNIFICANCE DETERMINATION FOR A PRELIMINARY WHITE
FINDING - NRC INSPECTION REPORT NO. 50-305/00-12(DRS)

Dear Mr. Reddemann:

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with the final results of our significance determination of the preliminary White finding identified in the subject Kewaunee Nuclear Power Plant inspection report. The inspection finding was assessed using the significance determination process and was preliminarily characterized as White (i.e., an issue with low to moderate increased importance to safety), which may require additional NRC inspection. This White finding involved inadequate design control measures that resulted in the installation of improperly sized auxiliary feedwater pump suction strainers.

At your request, a Regulatory Conference was held on January 30, 2001, in the Region III office, to further discuss Nuclear Management Company's (NMC) views on this issue. The conference focused on the risk to the safe operation of the Kewaunee plant from seismic events that may have rendered the auxiliary feedwater system inoperable due to potential plugging of the auxiliary feedwater pump suction strainers. A copy of the handout you provided at this meeting is enclosed. During the meeting, your staff described NMC's assessment of the significance and root cause of the finding, and the corrective actions taken to address the finding. NMC's risk assessment differed from the NRC risk assessment in the area of seismic damage and human performance during and after the seismic event. Specifically, NMC's risk assessment concluded that there was a lower probability than initially determined by the NRC that the strainers would plug and fail the auxiliary feedwater pumps.

After considering the information developed during the inspection, the additional information you provided in Revision 1 to Licensee Event Report 2000-014, dated January 22, 2001, and the information you provided at the conference, the NRC has concluded that the inspection finding is appropriately characterized as Green, an issue with very low safety significance. However, the issue is considered a violation of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix B, Criterion III, "Design Control," and will be documented in a future NRC inspection report as a Non-Cited Violation.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/ADAMS/index.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Sincerely,

/ RA /

John A. Grobe, Director
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket No. 50-305
License No. DPR-43

Enclosure: Regulatory Conference Handout

cc w/o encl: K. Hoops, Manager, Kewaunee Plant

cc w/encl: Chairman, Wisconsin Public Service Commission
D. Graham, Director, Bureau of Field Operations
State Liaison Officer

M. Reddemann

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/ RA /

John A. Grobe, Director
Division of Reactor Safety

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D. Graham, Director, Bureau of Field Operations
State Liaison Officer

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