



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION III  
801 WARRENVILLE ROAD  
LISLE, ILLINOIS 60532-4351  
October 17, 1997

*Public*

Mr. S. A. Patulski, Site Vice President  
Point Beach Nuclear Plant  
6610 Nuclear Road  
Two Rivers, WI 54241

SUBJECT: POINT BEACH NRC NOTICE OF VIOLATION AND INSPECTION REPORT  
NO. 50-266/97016(DRP); 50-301/97016(DRP); 72-005/97016(DRP)

Dear Mr. Patulski:

On September 8, 1997, the NRC completed an inspection at your Point Beach 1 and 2 reactor facilities. The enclosed report presents the results of that inspection.

During the six-week period covered by this inspection, we observed very good control room decorum and operator performance during the restart of Unit 2. In particular, we continue to see improvement in command and control, procedure adherence, and communications.

Four violations of NRC requirements were identified during this inspection. The first violation consists of four examples of a failure to meet 10 CFR 50, Appendix B, Criterion XVI, "Corrective Action," requirements. The examples stem from a significant deficiency identified by the inspectors with your staff's tracking and timely fulfillment of NRC commitments.

The second violation involved the cracking of a component cooling water pipe to the Unit 2 "B" residual heat removal heat exchanger and excessive mechanical seal leakage on the Unit 2 "A" residual heat removal pump, resulting in two examples of a violation of Technical Specification 15.3.1.A.3.b, concerning the requisite number of operable residual heat removal loops. Corrective actions to address an October 1996 crack on the same component cooling water pipe were not comprehensive enough to prevent the most recent crack.

We identified in the third violation your staff's failure to properly control or include acceptance criteria in inservice testing and maintenance procedures. This violation was of significant concern because we have previously raised concerns with acceptance criteria in the inservice testing program. In addition, since this problem is widespread, resolution of this violation will require a programmatic corrective action effort.

The fourth violation was another example of a failure to properly control a high radiation area when your staff failed to lock the Unit 2 lower containment access door. Although your staff identified this latest violation, the number of problems involving high radiation barriers over the past year indicate that your staff has not adequately addressed this issue. We were also concerned with declines in your health physics group's performance which we identified during this inspection and a recent inspection by a regional health physics specialist.

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*Item in report*



*C-9*  
*IEO1*

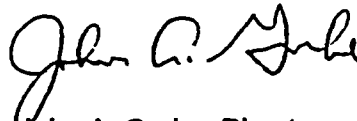
S. A. Patulski

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The violations are cited in the enclosed Notice of Violation, and the circumstances surrounding the violations are described in detail in the enclosed report. Please note that you are required to respond to this letter and should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice when preparing your response. The NRC will use your response, in part, to determine whether further enforcement action is necessary to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter, its enclosures, and your response will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room (PDR).

Sincerely,



John A. Grobe, Director  
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket No. 50-266, 50-301, 72-005  
License No. DPR-24, DPR-27

Enclosures: 1. Notice of Violation  
2. Inspection Report No. 50-266/97016(DRP);  
50-301/97016(DRP); 72-005/97016(DRP)

cc/encl: R. R. Grigg, President and Chief  
Operating Officer, WEPCO  
A. J. Cayia, Plant Manager  
Virgil Kanable, Chief, Boiler Section  
Cheryl L. Parrino, Chairman,  
Wisconsin Public Service Commission  
State Liaison Officer

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Sincerely,

/s/John A. Grobe

John A. Grobe, Director  
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