



**Wisconsin Electric** POWER COMPANY

114 WEST MICHIGAN MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN 53201

September 17, 1979

Mr. Peter Anderson,  
Public Affairs Officer  
WISCONSIN'S ENVIRONMENTAL DECADE  
114 East Mifflin Street  
Madison, Wisconsin 53703

Dear Mr. Anderson:

STEAM GENERATOR TUBE DEGRADATION  
POINT BEACH NUCLEAR PLANT

This is in reply to your letter of September 6, 1979 which we received on the 14th in respect to tube failures experienced at Point Beach Unit 1 last month.

I enclose for your information copies of our reports on these outages to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. As you will note, the source of the leakages at Point Beach is attributable to crevice-corrosion cracking of tubes by residue of early feedwater treating chemicals. We believe that these tube failures are serious, but because of the location and types of the failures involved, they do not constitute unresolved safety problems at the facility. The need to shut down Unit 1 a second time in the same month, as you will note from the attached report, was due to an error in reading the eddy current inspection tapes. This required the plugging of one tube that should have been included in the earlier outage work.

We are very much involved with programs that are intended to resolve these concerns, as well as any others that affect the continued reliable operation of Point Beach. In the absence of any significant safety concern, however, withdrawing Unit 1 from service is certainly not appropriate. In the light of our experience to date and in anticipation of future tubing deterioration, steam generator replacement is an economic rather than a safety consideration. Such a replacement is not justified at present, but it may be at some time in the future.

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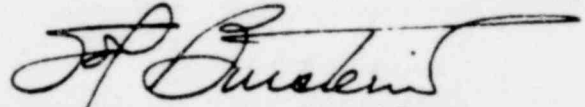
Mr. Peter Anderson

-2-

September 17, 1979

The advantage to our customers occasioned by the clean, safe, reliable, and economical energy produced by Point Beach Nuclear Plant has been well demonstrated for nearly ten years. Your implication that our present and anticipated tubing experiences at Point Beach are related to a major accident is not supportable.

Very truly yours,



Executive Vice President

Sol Burstein

Enclosures

Copies (Without Enclosures) to Messrs. J. G. Keppler, NRC, Region III  
- A. Schwencer, NRC  
Stanley York, PSCW

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