



**Wisconsin Electric** POWER COMPANY  
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October 29, 1979

Mr. J. G. Keppler, Regional Director  
Office of Inspection and Enforcement,  
Region III  
U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
799 Roosevelt Road  
Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137

Dear Mr. Keppler:

DOCKET NOS. 50-266 AND 50-301  
RESPONSE TO IE BULLETIN 79-24  
POINT BEACH NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2

On October 1, 1979 we received IE Bulletin 79-24 which described an unusual event involving the freezing of water in a portion of a high pressure coolant injection system recirculation line. The bulletin mentioned that similar events involving frozen instrument and sampling lines have also occurred at other facilities. All licensees were requested to review their plants to determine that adequate protective measures have been taken to assure that safety related processes, instrument, and sampling lines do not freeze during extremely cold weather.

As indicated in the bulletin, Point Beach Nuclear Plant has experienced two incidents of frozen sensing lines. Both these events involved the same Unit 1 steam pressure sensing line. The initial event occurred in 1976 when a gap in the insulation allowed subfreezing air to contact the line. The gap was filled with insulation to prevent further cold air contact. This line froze again at the same spot in 1977 when the insulation which had been added after the initial occurrence was dislodged by pressure fluctuations caused by unrelated repairs to the auxiliary building air conditioning unit. In both of these cases the outside ambient air temperature was below 0°F.

Following the second line freezing incident, a number of corrective actions were taken as discussed in our LER 266/77-13/03L-1 dated January 12, 1978. The immediate problem was corrected by placing permanent insulation around the steam generator pressure transmitter sensing line. As a precaution against other lines

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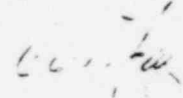
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being exposed to freezing temperatures, all other similar penetrations of sensing and instrument lines were checked and insulated as necessary to assure that no previously unnoticed insulation gaps existed. In addition, an annual check of these penetrations was added to the plant cold weather call-up list.

All fluid lines in the facades at Point Beach Nuclear Plant can be exposed to subfreezing temperatures during winter weather. These lines are heat traced for freeze protection and monitored on a routine basis. This monitoring includes a multichannel recorder located in the auxiliary building which tracks the status of each of the heat tracing channels. Trends and gradual changes in the performance of the heat tracing circuitry can be determined by observing these point recordings. If any freeze protection channel suddenly fails, a common alarm is annunciated in the control room. The heat tracing monitor can then be checked to determine exactly which channel has caused the alarm. Additionally, a cold weather call-up card and check list is used to prepare for cold weather conditions each year to assure the operability and integrity of these heat tracing and insulating measures. We believe that these measures will continue to provide reasonable assurance that process, instrument, and sampling lines will not freeze during extremely cold weather.

Very truly yours,

  
C. W. Fay, Director  
Nuclear Power Department

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