



Wisconsin Electric POWER COMPANY
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September 6, 1979

Mr. Harold R. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
Washington, D. C. 20555

Attention: Mr. A. Schwencer, Chief
Operating Reactor Branch 1

Gentlemen:

DOCKET NOS. 50-266 AND 50-301
OPERATION OF CONTAINMENT PURGE VALVES
POINT BEACH NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2

Our letter of January 16, 1979 responded to the NRC letter dated November 28, 1978, on the subject of containment purge valve operations. Our response indicated that we had requested design and analytical data from the manufacturer of the purge isolation valves and would respond further once these data had been received and evaluated.

On March 28, 1979, we notified the NRC Region III office that data we had received from the purge valve manufacturer indicated that the containment purge isolation valves could not be assured of closing from the full open position if subjected to the postulated containment pressure transient following a design basis loss of coolant accident. We made a commitment at that time, and in our 14-Day Licensee Event Report dated April 11, 1979, to prohibit opening of the containment purge isolation valves during power operations, hot shutdown or hot standby conditions.

Subsequent to that time, we have been considering potential modifications to ensure that the containment purge valves will close against containment pressure transients. We have recently contracted with consultants to conduct studies and analyses of these potential modifications. Among the alternatives to be considered are partial opening of the purge valves, reinforcement or replacement of the valves and/or valve operators, and limited purge capability at intermediate shutdown conditions.

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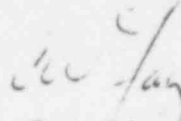
Mr. Harold R. Denton, Director

-2-

September 6, 1979

We shall keep you informed of the results of these studies and our decisions on future purge valve operations. In the interim, we are maintaining our previous commitment to limit purge valve operations to conditions of cold shutdown. Plant administrative procedures have been appropriately revised to reflect this commitment.

Very truly yours,



C. W. Fay, Director
Nuclear Power Department

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