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047-917-926

ATTACHMENT TO LICENSEE EVENT REPORT NO. 79-009/01T-0

Wisconsin Electric Power Company
Point Beach Nuclear Plant Unit 1
Docket No. 50-266

While hydrostatically testing a portion of the fire water system to test the installation of additional post-indicating valves, a compression fitting in another portion of the fire water system, which was at pump shutoff head pressure, failed at 1220 hours, May 10, 1979. The fitting was in the south main ten-inch pump discharge header; the nature of the failure being that the pipe pulled out of the compression fitting. The electric fire pump was running at the time of the failure. After the fitting failed, low fire system pressure caused the Diesel fire pump to start automatically. Shortly thereafter, a strainer in a three-inch line supplying the house heating boiler fuel tank sprinkler system also failed; the failure in this event being a crack in the cast iron strainer's pressure boundary. The area protected by this latter equipment is not a Technical Specification-committed area. These events temporarily disabled the fire water system.

As required by the Technical Specifications, a backup fire protection system was established within one hour by wheeling dry powder units to the "committed" hose reel stations. This action was completed at 1305 hours.

At 1340 hours normal fire water pressure was restored by isolating the damaged compression fitting. At 1800 hours the normal fire water system was restored by temporarily repairing the compression fitting and replacing the damaged strainer with a spoolpiece.

On May 11, 1979, the compression fitting was permanently repaired. The entire plant fire water system was successfully hydrostatically tested on May 11, 1979.

A new strainer is on order and will be installed when it becomes available.

The stuffing box follower-type flange on the failed compression fitting had apparently been broken for some time prior to this event as indicated by rust on the cracked portions, but was not previously discerned because the fitting is located on the bottom of a ten foot well. Restraint rods have been added, connecting the pipe and fitting, to prevent future pulling out of the pipe from the compression fitting in question.

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