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June 4, 1991

U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
Document Control Desk
Mail Station P1-137
Washington, D. C. 20555

Attention: Mr. Robert B. Samworth, Project Manager
Project Directorate III-3

Gentlemen:

DOCKETS 50-266 AND 50-301
10 CFR 50 DEDICATED SHUTDOWN CAPABILITY
(TAC'S 79388 AND 79389)
POINT BEACH NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2

This is to advise you, in accordance with your request, that the switchgear bypass modification for our Point Beach Nuclear Plant has been completed within the schedule committed to in our letter of December 21, 1990.

On December 21, 1990, Wisconsin Electric Power Company, licensee for the Point Beach Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2, submitted a request for a schedular exemption to Regulation 10 CFR 50.48(d)(4) in accordance with the provisions of 10 CFR 50.12. Paragraph 50.48(d)(4) specifies that, "Those fire protection features involving dedicated shutdown capability requiring new buildings and systems shall be implemented within 30 months of NRC approval." Under the provisions of that regulation, the dedicated shutdown modifications at our Point Beach Nuclear Plant were to have been completed by January 27, 1991. Our December 21 letter cited certain implementation problems and committed to completion by June 1, 1991. On January 31, 1991, a meeting was held at Point Beach with Messrs. Hannon and Samworth of the NRR staff; Mr. Vanderniet, the NRC Senior Resident Inspector for Point Beach; and other NRC Region III personnel to discuss the details of our exemption request. At the meeting we were informed that the exemption request would likely be denied; however, our schedular noncompliance was not considered a plant operability concern. We were subsequently advised in a letter dated March 14, 1991, that our request for a schedular exemption was, indeed, denied. We were requested to notify you when we had complied with Paragraph 50.48(d).

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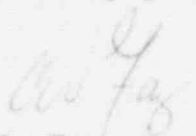
On May 6, 1991, we sent you a letter updating you on the progress of the installation of the switchgear bypass modification at Point Beach Nuclear Plant. At that time we informed you that all major equipment, including transformer/switchgear, motor control centers, control panel, and local transfer switches, had been installed. Completion of the remaining work was proceeding on schedule. We are now informing you that, as of May 31, 1991, all the equipment necessary for dedicated remote shutdown is operable. Procedures and operator training necessary to familiarize the operators with use of this modification have been completed.

We have also provided dedicated hand-held battery lanterns demonstrated to have greater than eight-hour capacity for interim emergency lighting. Now that equipment locations are finalized, a lighting survey will be performed and additional fixed emergency lighting will be installed if necessary. We expect to complete this survey and installation of the necessary emergency lighting units by the end of 1991.

As a result of completing these dedicated shutdown capability modifications to bypass the 4160 volt vital switchgear room for those systems necessary to achieve plant shutdown, we are now in compliance with the requirements of 10 CFR 50 Appendix R, Section III.L. Accordingly, we have suspended those compensatory measures discussed in the attachment to our letter dated December 21, 1990. Please note that the vital switchgear room remains under the protection of a dedicated Halon fire suppression system which is actuated by permanently installed temperature and/or smoke detectors.

Please contact us if you have any questions regarding our efforts in this matter.

Very truly yours,


C. W. Fay
Vice President
Nuclear Power

Copies to NRC Regional Administrator, Region III
NRC Resident Inspector