



Wisconsin Electric POWER COMPANY
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May 18, 1983

DMB

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STATE OF WISCONSIN
Department of Natural Resources
WPDES Permit Section
P.O. Box 7921
Madison, Wisconsin 53707

54-266

Gentlemen:

WPDES Permit No. WI-0000957-2
POINT BEACH NUCLEAR PLANT

On May 5, 1983, the Department was notified of a pH noncompliance at the Point Beach Nuclear Plant. The pH of the retention pond discharge (sample point 501) was 9.8 (s.u.) on April 29, 1983.

The high pH is believed to be the result of continuing problems with the demineralized makeup water treatment system. This treatment system uses lime for water softening and clarification and produces a high pH wastewater. The recent problems with the treatment system have resulted in undissolved lime carrying through to the pressure filter system. When the pressure filters are backwashed, this lime is carried over to the WPDES retention pond. The lime raises the pH of the retention pond discharge above the maximum limitation of 9.0 (s.u.).

A secondary cause for the high pH may have been a lower retention pond water level. The level of the pond had been lowered in order to permit treatment of cattails using a herbicide and to prevent the herbicide from entering the pond discharge. When the pond was initially lowered, some of the sludge at the inlet of the pond was agitated by the influent wastestream. This sludge would contain lime from the cold lime softener process that was routed previously to the retention pond. The lime in this sludge would also have raised the pH of the pond discharge.

In order to lower the pH of the retention pond below 9.0 (s.u.), 20 gallons of sulfuric acid were added to the pond influent. We are closely monitoring conditions in the pond during treatment of the cattails and will add acid as needed to maintain the pH between the limits of 6.0 to 9.0 (s.u.).

Very truly yours,

Vice President - Nuclear Power

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C. W. Fay

cc: DNR Lake Michigan District
NRC Washington, D.C.
NRC Region III

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