



Wisconsin Electric POWER COMPANY
231 W. MICHIGAN, P.O. BOX 2046, MILWAUKEE, WI 53201

March 25, 1983

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

Attention: Mr. R. A. Clark, Chief
Operating Reactors Branch 3

Gentlemen:

DOCKET NOS. 50-266 AND 50-301
WPDES PERMIT INFORMATION
POINT BEACH NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2

On March 11, 1983 the NRC issued Amendment Nos. 69 and 74 to Facility Operating Licenses DPR-24 and DPR-27 for the Point Beach Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2. These amendments deleted the Appendix B Environmental Technical Specifications which pertain to the nonradiological water quality related requirements.

In that letter, you requested that we confirm in writing our commitment to provide the NRC with a copy of any changes to the WPDES discharge permit and any permit violations requiring notification to the permitting agency at the time the information is reported to or received from the permitting agency. We hereby affirm that commitment. Copies of this information will be provided to both the NRC Regional Administrator and to the Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

In accordance with this commitment, we are providing herewith a letter to the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources which reports on a follow-up investigation concerning a permit violation we reported on February 7, 1983. Please contact us if you have any questions concerning this matter.

Very truly yours,

Vice President-Nuclear Power

8303310152 830325
PDR ADOCK 05000266
S PDR

C. W. Fay

Enclosure

Copies to NRC Resident Inspector
J. G. Keppler, Region III

C1001



Wisconsin Electric POWER COMPANY

231 WEST MICHIGAN, MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN 53201

March 18, 1983

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

Gentlemen:

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

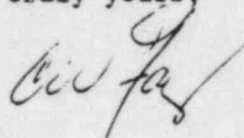
In a February 7, 1983, notification to the Department, the Company reported pH values at the Point Beach Nuclear Plant in excess of the WPDES permit limits. The retention pond discharge (sample point 501) had pH values of 9.2 and 9.1 (s.u.) on February 2 and 4, 1983, respectively. This will provide the results of our investigations of this incident.

We have determined that the high pH was caused by the presence of lime in makeup water treatment system filter backwash which is routed to the retention pond. We have been experiencing periodic problems with lime softening and clarification equipment used to process Lake Michigan water for use as makeup to the plant. In attempts to improve this process, different types of lime were being tested for efficiency in reducing water hardness. Apparently on February 1, the lime being tested did not thoroughly dissolve. As a consequence, lime particles were carried over from the clarifier through the clearwell and into the water treatment system pressure filters where they accumulated in the filter beds. When the beds were backwashed on February 2, the backwash discharge containing the lime caused an increase in the pH of the retention pond effluent.

The retention pond was treated on February 2 with 20 gallons of sulfuric acid to lower the pH. On February 3, when the lime was discovered to be the cause of the pH problem, we discontinued use of that type of lime. The pressure filter, however, had already accumulated lime particles and when backwashed on February 4, again raised the pH of the retention pond discharge. The pond pH was again adjusted with 20 gallons of sulfuric acid. We have discontinued the use of the type of lime which caused the pH problem.

It is important to note that the retention pond discharge mixes with the circulating cooling water prior to discharge to Lake Michigan. The pH of the discharge to the lake would have been within the WPDES limitations of 6.0 to 9.0 (s.u.).

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'C. W. Fay', written over the typed name.

Vice President

C. W. Fay

cc: DNR Lake Michigan District