



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

August 5, 1983

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

Gentlemen:

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

On June 3, 1983, the Department was notified that the pH of the retention pond discharge from the Point Beach Nuclear Plant (sample point 501) was 9.4 (s.u.) on June 1, 1983.

An investigation into the incident did not reveal a cause for the pH of the discharge. In order to better evaluate the pH problem, a program was initiated to monitor the pH of the various wastestreams that are routed to the retention pond in addition to the pH of the influent and effluent to the retention pond. During the June 29, 1983, compliance audit conducted by Mr. Jeff Haack of the Lake Michigan DNR office, preliminary results from the monitoring program were discussed at length. It was agreed that when the program was completed, a report containing the monitoring data would be submitted to the Department.

On June 16, 1983, a permit modification request for the Point Beach Nuclear Plant was submitted to the Department. We requested the removal of the pH limitations on the sewage treatment plant and retention pond effluents. The sewage treatment plant effluent is routed to the retention pond, and the effluent from the retention pond is then routed to one of the two once-through cooling water discharges. The cooling water provides adequate buffering capacity to neutralize any excess alkalinity of the retention pond effluent. It is our understanding that the Department has reviewed this modification request and determined that the changes will be implemented in the permit scheduled to be reissued in August 1983.

Although we anticipate the removal of the pH limitation on the retention pond effluent, we plan to continue to investigate the current problem of high pH discharges from the retention pond. As agreed during

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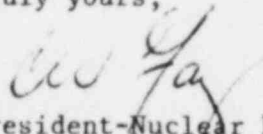
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the June 29 compliance audit, we will submit a report to the Department with the results of our ongoing pH monitoring program. If you have any questions regarding this incident or the monitoring program, please contact Mary Alyce Pezzi at 414-277-2158.

Very truly yours,



Vice President-Nuclear Power

C. W. Fay

cc: DNR Lake Michigan District
NRC Washington, DC
NRC Region III ✓