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May 3, 1991

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

Gentlemen:

DOCKETS 50-266 AND 50-301
RESPONSE TO GENERIC LETTER 88-14
INSTRUMENT AIR SUPPLY PROBLEMS
AFFECTING SAFETY-RELATED EQUIPMENT
POINT BEACH NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2

In a letter dated July 27, 1989, we committed to replace leaking instrument air vent valves in the Unit 1 Purge Supply and Exhaust System. In a subsequent letter dated June 18, 1990, we stated that this repair would be completed during the spring 1991 refueling outage. You acknowledged this schedule in a letter dated January 9, 1991. Because an adequate replacement valve is not available, we have made a procedural modification instead of a hardware change.

The subject vent valve is a cam-operated valve that supplies sealing air to the T-ring seals on the purge supply and exhaust isolation valves. In the instrument air supply line, the vent valve is located between a check valve and the T-ring seals. Since the vent valve leaks instrument air to the atmosphere, if the instrument air supply is lost, the valve would allow air to bleed off the T-ring seals, potentially breaching containment integrity through the purge supply or exhaust line.

The subject vent valve is no longer produced, so we were unable to acquire an identical replacement valve. The substitute valve, recommended by the manufacturer of the original vent valve, leaked during bench tests because it was not designed as an air tight valve, as we had thought. We could not locate an adequate replacement vent valve.

Because an adequate replacement valve was not found, a new procedure, "Installation and Removal of Purge Valve Component Bypass Lines, RPM-150", has been instituted to assure the integrity of the

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Purge Supply and Exhaust System. Whenever containment integrity is required by Technical Specifications, the purge supply and exhaust isolation valves are locked shut, the leaking vent valve is physically removed from the instrument air supply line, and instrument air is piped directly to the T-ring seals. When the reactor is in a cold shutdown condition, and containment integrity is not required, the vent valves are replaced in the instrument air supply line to allow operation of the purge supply and exhaust isolation valves. This procedure change insures that containment integrity will be maintained when required by Technical Specifications.

If you have any additional questions, please contact us.

Very truly yours,



C. W. Fay
Vice President
Nuclear Power

Copy to: NRC Resident Inspector
NRC Regional Administrator