



Wisconsin Electric POWER COMPANY

231 W. MICHIGAN, P.O. BOX 2046, MILWAUKEE, WI 53201

July 27, 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:

DOCKETS 50-266 AND 50-301
REACTOR CAVITY ANNULUS SEAL RING
POINT BEACH NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2

In response to a 1979 NRC concern regarding the potential for the reactor cavity seal ring to become a missile hazard in the event of a reactor coolant pipe break inside the reactor cavity, Wisconsin Electric Power Company, Licensee for the Point Beach Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2, stated in a letter dated December 20, 1979 that the seal ring would be raised to more than 12 feet above the reactor cavity floor following each refueling outage. The NRC in a letter dated February 4, 1980 confirmed that this action resolved its concern in this matter.

We have determined that during the most recent operating cycles, the reactor cavity seal rings in both units were not raised to more than 12 feet above the reactor cavity floor in accordance with our 1979 letter. The original decision to raise the seal ring to at least 12 feet above the reactor cavity floor was somewhat arbitrary and extremely conservative based upon engineering judgment. A height of 8 feet above the cavity floor would also be sufficient to assure that the seal ring would not become a missile in the event of a reactor coolant pipe break. Presently, the Point Beach Units 1 and 2 reactor cavity seal rings are approximately 8-1/2 and 10-1/2 feet, respectively, above the cavity floor. As with our original commitment to raise the seal rings to greater than 12 feet, we believe these distances are sufficient to prevent the seal ring from being subject to a direct jet impingement from the reactor vessel annulus in the event of a pipe break in the reactor cavity and preclude the seal ring from becoming a missile hazard.

App
1/0

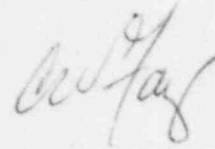
Mr. H. R. Denton

-2-

July 27, 1983

An internal non-conformance report has been initiated regarding this matter. The resolution of this non-conformance will include appropriate corrective action to prevent recurrence.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'C. W. Fay', is written over the typed name.

Vice President-Nuclear Power

C. W. Fay

Copy to NRC Resident Inspector