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

Gentlemen:

DOCKET 50-301
CYCLE 21 RELOAD
POINT BEACH NUCLEAR PLANT UNIT 2

Point Beach Nuclear Plant Unit 2 was shut down for refueling at the end of Cycle 20 operation on September 24, 1994. Cycle 20 burn-up was approximately 11,307 MWD/MTU. Unit 2 began operation for Cycle 21 on November 1, 1994, following a 38-day refueling and maintenance outage.

Reload Region 23 for Unit 2, Cycle 21 operation contains 29 Westinghouse 14 x 14 upgraded Optimized Fuel Assemblies (OFA). Four water displacer assemblies, nine assemblies with Integral Fuel Burnable Absorber and twelve Peripheral Power Suppression Assemblies, are also included in the core.

The mechanical and thermal-hydraulic designs for the reload core are similar to those of previously reviewed and accepted reload designs containing OFA fuel. Changes include a reduction in the Minimum Measured Flow Rate, new core thermal limits and a change to the OPΔT setpoint function. The changes are the subject of Technical Specifications Change Request 177. Safety analyses show that all safety criteria are met and the conclusions presented in the Final Safety Analysis Report remain valid.

The reload safety evaluation report concludes that no unreviewed safety questions, as defined in 10 CFR 50.59, are involved in the operation of Unit 2 during Cycle 21. The 10 CFR 50.59 evaluation has been reviewed and approved by the Manager's Supervisory Staff. Verification of the core design has been performed by means of the standard start-up physics tests normally conducted at the beginning of each cycle. The return to full power was limited by hot channel

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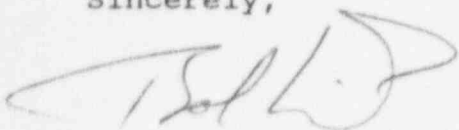
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U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
January 18, 1995
Page 2

factors and an unexpected quadrant tilt in the core. Administrative limits were maintained to ensure no hot channel factors were exceeded and the unit achieved full power on December 1, 1994.

Please contact us if you have any questions regarding the Cycle 21 reload design or operation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Bob Link', is written over a horizontal line.

Bob Link
Vice President
Nuclear Power

RJK/jg

cc: NRC Resident Inspector
NRC Regional Administrator, Region III