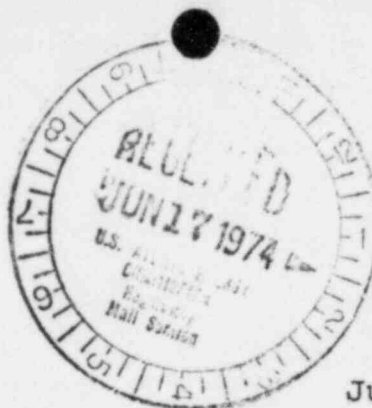




Wisconsin Electric POWER COMPANY
231 WEST MICHIGAN, MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN 53201



June 13, 1974

Mr. John F. O'Leary, Director
Directorate of Licensing
U. S. Atomic Energy Commission
Washington, D. C. 20545

Dear Mr. O'Leary:

DOCKET NO. 50-266
GASEOUS DISCHARGE FOLLOWING
WATER DRAINAGE TO WASTE HOLDUP TANK
POINT BEACH NUCLEAR PLANT

This letter is to report the details of an operating event at Point Beach Nuclear Plant, Facility Operating License No. DPR-24, that is now being defined as an abnormal occurrence as covered in Section 15.1.a.C of the Technical Specifications. This written report is filed in accordance with Section 15.6.6.A.2 of the Technical Specifications but because of the reclassification of the event does not meet the ten day reporting requirement of this specification.

This incident occurred on March 25, 1974, and was originally documented as an in-plant significant operating event. This was the appropriate interpretation for the initial event in that the inadvertent opening of a valve permitted 150 gallons of reactor coolant to enter the waste holdup tank, radioactivity in this liquid being contained within plant systems. Later follow-up work by the Chemistry and Health Physics Group, however, determined a low level monitored release that followed shortly thereafter was attributed largely to the above event. The calculations below, conservatively attribute the total release to this event.

The fact that an inadvertent liquid release to the waste holdup tank resulted in an unscheduled but monitored gaseous release to the atmosphere changes the definition of the event to that of an abnormal occurrence. In reviewing this occurrence at this later date, it was determined that the reporting requirement per the above Technical Specifications had not been met. The commitment to report this event as an abnormal occurrence was made by telephone to Mr. K. Baker of Region III Compliance, on June 7, 1974.

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S PDR

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At approximately 2145 hours on March 25, 1974, an operator inadvertently opened the letdown line cation demineralizer drain valve 1-380 while placing the ion exchanger on line. This action allowed approximately 150 gallons of reactor coolant system letdown water to be drained to the waste holdup tank.

Approximately two minutes after the opening of valve 1-380, the Control Operator noted a decreasing volume control tank level and immediately bypassed the demineralizer to prevent further letdown line loss to the waste holdup tank. The valve lineup at the demineralizer was then rectified and the demineralizer placed back in service.

Approximately fifteen minutes following the water drainage, the R-14 auxiliary building exhaust stack monitor alarmed. This was caused by the drained water releasing dissolved gas in the waste holdup tank, the gasses venting by the normal and monitored vent path to atmosphere.

An analysis of the release is as follows:

1. Total gaseous activity released = 27.56 Ci
 - a. Total release period - 240 minutes
 - b. Average concentration of release - $6.6 \times 10^{-5} \mu\text{Ci/cc}$
 - c. Total volume released = $4.18 \times 10^{11} \text{ cc}$
 - d. Activity released $\frac{1}{1 \times 10^6 \mu\text{Ci/cc}} \times 6.6 \times 10^{-5} \mu\text{Ci/cc} \times 4.18 \times 10^{11} \text{ cc} = 27.56 \text{ Ci}$
 - e. % MPC at site boundary Xe-133 = <.01
2. Particulate activity released - non detectable
3. Iodine activity released - non-detectable

The results indicate that the maximum activity at the site boundary was an extremely small fraction of permissible levels and that the event constituted no hazard to the health and safety of the public.

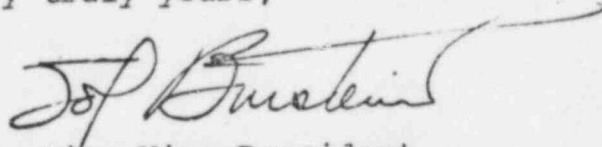
Mr. John F. O'Leary

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June 13, 1974

The Operations Superintendent has discussed the event with the operator involved and has reminded him of the utmost care which must be exercised on all valve lineup operations.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Sol Burstein", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Sol Burstein

Executive Vice President

cc: Mr. James G. Keppler, Regional Director
Directorate of Regulatory Operations, Region III
U. S. Atomic Energy Commission
799 Roosevelt Road
Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137