



Wisconsin Electric POWER COMPANY

231 WEST MICHIGAN, MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN 53201

February 8, 1974

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

Dear Mr. Keppler:

DOCKET NOS. 50-266 AND 50-301
POINT BEACH NUCLEAR PLANT
ABNORMAL OCCURRENCES IN PIPING SYSTEMS

In reply to your letter of January 11, 1974, and its attached R.O. Information Request 74-1, "Abnormal Occurrences in Piping Systems", this is to advise you that review of records at Point Beach Nuclear Plant has revealed only one instance of a piping vibration event. This instance of vibration occurred in Class B piping and would not normally be the subject of a report to the AEC Directorate of Regulatory Operations.

On December 30, 1971, during a heatup of Unit 2 reactor from the cold shutdown to the hot shutdown condition, vibration was noted in the residual heat removal piping in Unit 2 containment. The reactor coolant system pressure and temperature at that time were 900 psig and 375°F, respectively. At least one reactor coolant pump was running. The residual heat removal system was not in service.

The vibration was first noticed at valve 2MOV-701, this being the first-off valve from the "A" main coolant loop on the ten inch piping to the suction side of the residual heat removal pumps. The report on the vibration noted it as considerable at the pressure and temperature noted, then decreasing to negligible as the heatup continued.

Startup personnel of the system designer, Westinghouse Electric Corporation, were informed and a representative of that company sketched the piping layout and took some rudimentary measurements indicating that the vibration was observable on much of the length of this pipe where it ran within the containment. The same piping did not vibrate beyond the containment boundary. No physical damage of the pipe's hangers or supports could be found.

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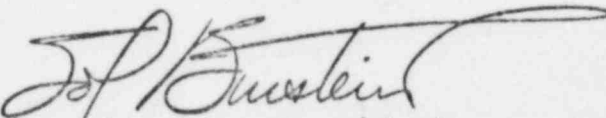
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In the two years since this single occurrence, it has not been possible to duplicate the exact conditions that created the vibration. Extended plant operation at power and very few cold shutdown to hot shutdown heatups have kept this piping well outside the narrow range of pressure and temperature at which it was observed to vibrate on this one occasion.

The question of this pipe's vibration was raised orally with Westinghouse Electric Corporation again in October of 1973; no report having been made by them on the initial sketches and data taken by their personnel. Their written reply, dated November 9, 1973, indicates they will be prepared to make a representative available to take further measurements on this piping during the heatup of Unit 2 following the refueling of this unit in November, 1974.

As indicated, we are attempting to evaluate this experience further, including the possibility of duplicating the specific conditions which appeared to have generated this vibration. Should our investigation show that a vibration problem can exist in this piping, even under very specific conditions, we will inform you further.

Very truly yours,



Executive Vice President

Sol Burstein

cc: Assistant Director for Construction
and Operation
Directorate of Regulatory Operations
U. S. Atomic Energy Commission
Washington, D. C. 20545