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

Gentlemen:

DOCKET 50-301  
CYCLE 18 START-UP REPORT  
POINT BEACH NUCLEAR PLANT UNIT 2

Enclosed is a summary report of the startup and power escalation testing for the Point Beach Nuclear Plant Unit 2 following refueling 17. This report documents in a concise format the results of the physics testing program and the unit systems response during the unit start-up. The new fuel for this cycle consisted of 16 Optimized Fuel Assemblies (OFAs) with 3.6 weight percent U-235 and 12 OFAs with 4.0 weight percent U-235. This is the first cycle that incorporates Integral Fuel Burnable Absorbers (IFBAs) and axial flux blankets of natural uranium. This is also the first cycle not using secondary neutron source assemblies. This report is furnished in accordance with the requirements in Point Beach Nuclear Plant Technical Specification 15.6.9.1.

Please contact us if you have any questions concerning this report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'J. Zach'.

James J. Zach  
Vice President  
Nuclear Power

Copies to NRC Regional Administrator, Region III  
NRC Resident Inspector

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