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VPNPD-96-029

10 CFR 50.54(f)

May 9, 1996

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US NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
Mail Station P1-137  
Washington, DC 20555

Gentlemen:

DOCKETS 50-266 AND 50-301  
RESPONSE TO NRC BULLETIN 96-02,  
MOVEMENT OF HEAVY LOADS OVER SPENT FUEL,  
OVER FUEL IN THE REACTOR CORE, OR  
OVER SAFETY-RELATED EQUIPMENT  
POINT BEACH NUCLEAR PLANT UNITS 1 AND 2

This letter provides information pursuant to 10 CFR 50.54(f) in response to the requested actions contained in NRC Bulletin 96-02, "Movement of Heavy Loads Over Spent Fuel, Over Fuel in the Reactor Core, or Over Safety-Related Equipment." The Bulletin required licensees to review their plans and capabilities for the handling of heavy loads in accordance with existing regulatory guidelines and within their licensing basis, and submit a report addressing the reviews.

Wisconsin Electric addressed the handling of heavy loads at the Point Beach Nuclear Plant in accordance with the guidelines of NUREG-0612, "Control of Heavy Loads at Nuclear Power Plants," and the December 22, 1980, Generic Letter, in correspondence with the Commission Staff, and subsequently received an NRC Safety Evaluation dated March 27, 1984. This Safety Evaluation addressed Phase I actions which included:

- The identification of load handling equipment within the scope of NUREG 0612,
- a description of associated load paths, procedures, and operator training,
- a description of special and general purpose lifting devices, and
- a description of the maintenance, testing, and repair of equipment and the handling equipment specifications.

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In addition to the Phase 1 actions evaluated in the March 27, 1984, Safety Evaluation, Wisconsin Electric upgraded the crane in the Primary Auxiliary Building to single failure proof criteria as a result of concerns over the movement of heavy loads over or near the spent fuel pool with fuel stored in the pool. The NRC reviewed and accepted this modification along with surveillance requirements for auxiliary building crane lifting devices in a Safety Evaluation dated September 3, 1985, which accompanied License Amendments 96 and 100 for Point Beach Nuclear Plant Units 1 and 2 respectively.

In response to required Item 1 of the Bulletin, we have reviewed our plans and capabilities for the handling of heavy loads at the Point Beach Nuclear Plant. These reviews have been performed to verify that load handling related activities including equipment requirements, continue to be performed as accepted by the NRC in the March 27 1984, and September 3, 1985, Safety Evaluations. We have concluded that heavy load handling and related activities continue to be performed in accordance with our licensing basis as accepted by the NRC in the referenced safety evaluations. One clarification of our activities is warranted.

Wisconsin Electric recently completed modifications which installed two additional emergency diesel generators at PBNP and realigned portions of the safety related electrical system. The original, existing Train B diesel generator was converted to a Train A diesel generator. The additional diesel generators, both Train B, related support equipment and 4160 volt switchgear, were installed in a separate Class 1 structure within the plant protected area. Each Train A and Train B diesel generator is fully capable of supplying the accident loads in one unit and maintain safe shutdown in the other unit.

Auxiliary cranes were installed in the new structure capable of handling heavy loads over safety related equipment. These cranes are normally used only during diesel generator related maintenance activities. Safe load paths and controls are being established to ensure heavy loads are not transported over safety related equipment in this area during times that the equipment is required to be operable.

In response to required Item 3, heavy load handling activities performed over spent reactor fuel in the spent fuel pool are accomplished using a single failure proof crane and special lifting devices which meet the guidance in NUREG 0612. Point Beach Nuclear Plant presently utilizes the VSC-24 dry storage system at PBNP under the provisions of the general license granted by 10 CFR 72.210. Heavy load handling activities over the spent fuel pool in support of dry storage activities are performed in accordance with the PBNP licensing basis as well as the VSC-24 Safety Analysis Report, the related NRC Safety Evaluation Report and Certificate of Compliance 1007. Consideration of a cask drop is therefore not required.

The PBNP Technical Specifications were modified by Amendment 96 and 100 as discussed previously to reflect the use of the single failure proof crane when handling heavy loads over spent fuel in the spent fuel pool. As directed by Items 2 and 3 of the Bulletin, we will continue to review

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future handling activities over and around the spent fuel pool as well as the balance of plant to ensure they continue to be performed in accordance with the PBNP licensing basis as reviewed and accepted by the Commission Staff. Should we determine that future activities cannot be performed as previously reviewed and accepted by the NRC, appropriate approvals, including license amendments as appropriate will be obtained prior to proceeding.

If you have any questions, please contact us.

Sincerely,

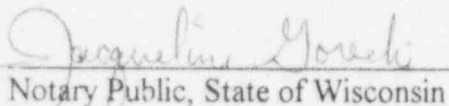


Bob Link  
Vice President  
Nuclear Power

TGM

cc: NRC Resident Inspector  
NRC Regional Administrator, Region III

Subscribed and sworn to before me  
this 9th day of May, 1996.

  
Notary Public, State of Wisconsin

My commission expires 10-27-96.