

July 17, 1985

DCR
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Docket Nos. 50-266
and 50-301

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Mr. C. W. Fay, Vice President
Nuclear Power Department
Wisconsin Electric Power Company
231 West Michigan Street, Room 308
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53201

Dear Mr. Fay:

This is in response to your letter of May 2, 1985 wherein you requested an extension of the deadline established in 10 CFR 50.49 for final environmental qualification (EQ) of certain safety related electrical equipment at Point Beach Nuclear Plant, Unit Nos. 1 and 2.

10 CFR 50.49 established a deadline for final environmental qualification of safety related electrical equipment by the end of the second refueling outage following March 30, 1982, or March 31, 1985, whichever is earlier. The rule states that extensions to this deadline may be granted by the Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, for specific pieces of equipment, if the requests are filed on a timely basis and demonstrate good cause for the extension, such as procurement lead time, test complications, and installation problems.

In your May 2, 1985 letter, you requested extensions until August 31, 1985 from the deadlines for qualification of Crosby lift indicating switch assemblies (LISAs) which have been installed on the Units 1 and 2 pressurizer safety valves, and Veam thermocouple connectors which have been installed on the Units 1 and 2 Incore Thermocouple systems.

You state in your letter that you have been experiencing continued problems with qualification of the LISAs due to moisture leakage past the sealed flexible conduit during the LOCA testing. The resulting short circuit of electrical components has prevented completion of this final phase of the qualification test sequence. Additionally, you state that your staff's Quality Assurance (QA) personnel had identified to your contractor QA deficiencies in the qualification testing program for the LISAs which required correction.

This equipment was required to be environmentally qualified by June 7, 1985 for Point Beach Units 1 and 2 as a result of a previously granted extension (approved November 5, 1984) to the dates specified in 10 CFR 50.49.

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Mr. C. W. Fay

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You indicate that due to the delay, the subsequent completion date for the LISA EQ retesting, the time required for preparation of the final test report and associated plant-specific EQ documentation, you request an extension until August 31, 1985 to complete qualification of the LISAs.

With respect to the Veam thermocouples, you indicate that problems causing significant delay have been encountered in the radiation testing phase for the electrical interface connectors. Specifically, the testing facility was unable to attain an adequate dose rate for several weeks. This problem was corrected and testing was able to resume with a scheduled June completion date.

Because of the radiation testing delay, and the time required for preparation of a final test report and associated plant-specific EQ documentation, you request an extension until August 31, 1985, to complete qualification of the thermocouple connectors. This equipment was also required to be environmentally qualified by June 7, 1985 for Point Beach Units 1 and 2 as a result of a previously granted extension (approved November 5, 1984).

The extensions requested in your May 2, 1985 letter fall within the allowable extensions anticipated in the rule. The delays in qualification relate primarily to documentation and not to installation.

The equipment is installed and ready to be made operational as soon as testing and documentation are completed. Further, you state that the equipment provides no "active" safety-related function, is not necessary to achieve or maintain safe shutdown and is not necessary to mitigate the consequences of a design basis accident. There is also alternative instrumentation available to the operators (an acoustical monitor in the case of the LISAs and environmentally qualified hot leg loop resistance temperature detectors in the case of the thermocouple connectors).

You have supported the timeliness of your request by stating that the testing difficulties were not encountered until April 1985.

Based on the above, we find that your request for extension was filed on a timely basis and demonstrates good cause for an extension of time to complete final environmental qualification of the Crosby lift indicating switch assemblies and Veam thermocouple connectors for Point Beach Units 1 and 2. Therefore, as requested, an extension is granted until August 31, 1985 for final environmental qualification of the above electrical equipment.

Original Signed by
H. R. Denton

Harold R. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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