Wisconsin Electric
POWER COMPANY

Point Beach Nuclear Plant
6610 Nuclear Rd., Two Rivers, WI 54241

(414) 755-2321

PBL 97-0043

February 6, 1997

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

Ladies/Gentlemen:

DOCKETS 50-266 AND 50-301
LICENSEE EVENT REPORT 97-003-00
SPARE CONTAINMENT PENETRATIONS NOT LEAK TESTED
IN ACCORDANCE WITH TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS
POINT BEACH NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2

Enclosed is Licensee Event Report 97-003-00 for Point Beach Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2. This report is provided in accordance with 10 CFR 50.73(a)(2)(i)(B), "Any operation or condition prohibited by the plant's Technical Specifications." This report describes the identification of two spare containment penetrations which were not being tested in accordance with Technical Specifications Section 15.4.4, "Containment Tests."

Please contact us if you require additional information.

Sincerely,

Douglas F. Johnson
Manager - Regulatory Services & Licensing

clb

Enclosure

cc: NRC Resident Inspector
NRC Regional Administrator

IE22

NRC FORM 366 (4-95) U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

APPROVED BY OMB NO. 3150-0104
EXPIRES 04/30/98

ESTIMATED BURDEN PER RESPONSE TO COMPLY WITH THIS INFORMATION COLLECTION REQUEST: 50.0 HRS. REPORTED LESSONS LEARNED ARE INCORPORATED INTO THE LICENSING PROCESS AND FED BACK TO INDUSTRY. FORWARD COMMENTS REGARDING BURDEN ESTIMATE TO THE INFORMATION AND RECORDS MANAGEMENT BRANCH (T-6 F33), U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION, WASHINGTON, DC 20555-0001, AND TO THE PAPERWORK REDUCTION PROJECT

LICENSEE EVENT REPORT (LER)

(See reverse for required number of digits/characters for each block)

FACILITY NAME (1)	DOCKET NUMBER (2)	PAGE (3)
Point Beach Nuclear Plant, Unit 1	05000266	1 OF 3

TITLE (4)

Spare Containment Penetrations Not Leak Tested In Accordance With Technical Specifications

EVENT DATE (5)			LER NUMBER (6)			REPORT DATE (7)			OTHER FACILITIES INVOLVED (8)	
MONTH	DAY	YEAR	YEAR	SEQUENTIAL NUMBER	REVISION NUMBER	MONTH	DAY	YEAR	FACILITY NAME	DOCKET NUMBER
									PBNP Unit 2	05000301
01	09	97	97	-- 003 --	00	02	06	97	FACILITY NAME	DOCKET NUMBER 05000

OPERATING MODE (9)	N	THIS REPORT IS SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF 10 CFR §: (Check one or more) (11)							
POWER LEVEL (10)	90		20.2201(b)		20.2203(a)(2)(v)	X	50.73(a)(2)(i)		50.73(a)(2)(viii)
			20.2203(a)(1)		20.2203(a)(3)(i)		50.73(a)(2)(ii)		50.73(a)(2)(x)
			20.2203(a)(2)(i)		20.2203(a)(3)(ii)		50.73(a)(2)(iii)		73.71
			20.2203(a)(2)(ii)		20.2203(a)(4)		50.73(a)(2)(iv)		OTHER
			20.2203(a)(2)(iii)		50.36(c)(1)		50.73(a)(2)(v)		Specify in Abstract below
			20.2203(a)(2)(iv)		50.36(c)(2)		50.73(a)(2)(vii)		or in NRC Form 366A

LICENSEE CONTACT FOR THIS LER (12)

NAME	TELEPHONE NUMBER (Include Area Code)
David Weaver	(414) 221-3418

COMPLETE ONE LINE FOR EACH COMPONENT FAILURE DESCRIBED IN THIS REPORT (13)

CAUSE	SYSTEM	COMPONENT	MANUFACTURER	REPORTABLE TO NPRDS		CAUSE	SYSTEM	COMPONENT	MANUFACTURER	REPORTABLE TO NPRDS

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT EXPECTED (14)				EXPECTED SUBMISSION DATE (15)	MONTH	DAY	YEAR
	YES (If yes, complete EXPECTED SUBMISSION DATE).	X	NO				

ABSTRACT (Limit to 1400 spaces, i.e., approximately 15 single-spaced typewritten lines) (16)

On January 9, 1997, while Point Beach Nuclear Plant (PBNP), Unit 1 was operating at 90 percent power and Unit 2 was shut down during its annual refueling outage, plant personnel determined that two containment penetrations (per unit) were not being tested in accordance with plant Technical Specifications. Evaluation of a September 16, 1996, Quality Assurance audit finding determined that Penetrations P-12B (both units) and P-30a (both units) made use of bolted flanges inside containment and isolation valves outside containment but were not Type B or C leak tested in accordance with 10 CFR 50, Appendix J. This failure to test penetrations P-12b and P-30a violated Technical Specifications Section 15.4.4, "Containment Tests," which required leak testing for all containment penetrations employing resilient seals, gaskets, or sealant compounds. These penetrations were subsequently tested with satisfactory results.

FACILITY NAME (1)	DOCKET NUMBER (2)	LER NUMBER (6)			PAGE (3)
		YEAR	SEQUENTIAL NUMBER	REVISION NUMBER	
Point Beach Nuclear Plant, Unit 1	05000266	97	- 003 -	00	2 OF 3

TEXT *(If more space is required, use additional copies of NRC Form 366A)* (17)

Event Description:
On January 9, 1997, while Point Beach Nuclear Plant (PBNP), Unit 1 was operating at 90 percent power and Unit 2 was shut down during its annual refueling outage, plant personnel determined that two containment penetrations (per unit) were not being tested in accordance with plant Technical Specifications.

On September 16, 1996, a Quality Assurance audit identified nine spare containment penetrations with blank flanges in which the associated penetration diagrams did not clearly indicate if the flanges were welded or bolted. According to the requirements of 10 CFR 50, Appendix J, no local leak testing is required for spare containment penetrations with welded flanges. However, if bolted flanges or caps are used, then Appendix J Type B or C leak testing is required.

On October 14, 1996, subsequent review of containment penetration drawings determined that Penetrations P-12b (both units) and P-30a (both units) made use of non-welded (bolted) flanges inside containment but were not Type B leak tested in accordance with 10 CFR 50, Appendix J. Although corrective actions were recommended to leak test Penetrations P-12b and P-30a and revise the supporting documentation, this situation was incorrectly scoped as not reportable. However, on January 9, 1997, a re-review of Technical Specifications requirements in place when the audit finding was written identified this failure to Type B test the flanges on penetrations P-12b and P-30a as a violation of Technical Specifications Section 15.4.4, "Containment Tests." Section 15.4.4 required Type B testing for all containment penetrations employing resilient seals, gaskets, or sealant compounds. All penetrations were declared operable based upon previous successful leak tests, mechanical design, and maintenance history. The Unit 1 penetrations were successfully leak tested on January 13, 1997. The Unit 2 penetrations will be leak tested prior to leaving cold shutdown during the current Unit 2 refueling outage.

Research into the cause of this situation revealed that these penetrations were routinely tested prior to 1985. The tests were canceled based on the results of a containment penetration review performed in 1984. Although the 1984 review clearly recommends that Penetrations P-12B and P-30a no longer be tested, the rationale for this recommendation could not be determined.

Corrective Actions:
Point Beach Test Procedures PBTP-045, "Containment Test Connection - P12B," and PBTP-046, "Containment Test Connection - 30A," were issued on January 9, 1997, to perform Type B testing on Unit 1 containment Penetrations P-12b and P-30a in accordance with 10 CFR 50, Appendix J. These penetrations were tested on January 13, 1997, and verified as operable. Test Procedures PBTP-045 and PBTP-046 will be incorporated into Unit 1 Operations Refueling Test (ORT) procedures prior to the Spring 1997 refueling outage, which is currently scheduled to commence on May 9, 1997.

FACILITY NAME (1)	DOCKET NUMBER (2)	LER NUMBER (6)			PAGE (3)
		YEAR	SEQUENTIAL NUMBER	REVISION NUMBER	
Point Beach Nuclear Plant, Unit 1	05000266	97	- 003 -	00	3 OF 3

TEXT *(If more space is required, use additional copies of NRC Form 366A)* (17)

Unit 1 containment Penetrations P-12a and P-30a will be tested prior to leaving cold shutdown during the Spring 1997 outage.

Operations Refueling Test Procedures ORT-29a, "Permanent Test Connection," and ORT-41a, "Permanent Test Connection," will be issued and Unit 2 containment penetrations P-12b and P-30a will be tested prior to leaving cold shutdown during the current Unit 2 refueling outage.

FSAR Section 5.2 will be revised by July 1, 1997, to accurately represent the configuration of all spare containment penetrations.

Cause:
Research into the cause of this situation revealed that these penetrations had been routinely tested prior to 1985. The tests were inappropriately canceled based on the results of a containment penetration review performed in 1984. Although the 1984 review clearly recommends that Penetrations P-12b and P-30a no longer be tested, the rationale for this recommendation could not be determined.

Reportability:
This Licensee Event Report is being submitted in accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR 50.73(a)(2)(i)(B), "Any operation or condition prohibited by the plant's Technical Specifications."

Safety Assessment:
Containment Penetrations P-12b and P-30a had been routinely Type B and C leak tested prior to 1985. The penetrations satisfactorily met all acceptance criteria during these tests. Since 1985, all containment integrated leak rate tests (ILRTs) were performed satisfactorily. Based on the successful tests performed to date, the fact that the penetrations have not been disturbed or disassembled since 1985, and the flexitallic gaskets used on the associated flanges are not susceptible to age-related degradation, the penetrations have been operable since 1985. Tests performed on the penetrations upon discovery of this condition confirmed operability. Therefore, the health and safety of the public and plant personnel were not impacted by this event.

Similar Occurrences:
The following report describes an event involving a missed surveillance/sample:

LER	Title
266/96-014-00	Steam Generator Blowdown Sample Not Performed in Accordance With Technical Specifications