



Wisconsin
Electric
POWER COMPANY

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

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62FR 27629
May 20, 1997

(3)

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NPL 97-0334

June 9, 1997

Chief, Rules Review and Directives Branch
US NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
Mail Stop T-6D-69
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Ladies/Gentlemen:

DOCKET 50-266 AND 50-301
PROPOSED NRC BULLETIN 96-01, SUPPLEMENT 1
CONTROL ROD INSERTION PROBLEMS
NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT
POINT BEACH NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2

Wisconsin Electric Power Company requests an extension of the comment period for NRC Bulletin 96-01 Supplement 1. The current public comment period expires on June 19, 1997. We believe it would be appropriate to extend the comment period for an additional 30 days, or until July 19, 1997. The current 30 day comment period is insufficient time to complete reviews on the impact this proposed requirement would have on the operation of our Point Beach Nuclear Plant (PBNP), Units 1 and 2.

During presentations by the NRC on the control rod insertion problems, the proposed burnup limit for the type of fuel used at PBNP was identified as 45,000 MWD/MTU. Using this proposed burnup limit, we had completed analyses of changes to core designs, the potential economic impact and operational impacts on PBNP. As published in the Federal Register, Supplement 1 to Bulletin 96-01, would establish the burnup limit at 35,000 MWD/MTU. This will require us to reevaluate our future core designs, burnup strategies, and spent fuel discharges to be able to assess the full impact of this limit for both operation and economics. The extension of the comment period proposed in this letter will provide us the necessary time to complete our studies of the impact of the proposed burnup limit, and enable us to provide specific comments on the proposed Bulletin requirements.

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A subsidiary of Wisconsin Energy Corporation

Please contact us if you have any questions. Also, please notify us of your decision regarding this requested extension.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Douglas F. Johnson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Douglas" being more prominent.

Douglas F. Johnson
Manager - Regulatory Services and Licensing

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cc: NRC Project Manager, NCC
NRC Resident Inspector