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Notice of Intent to Conduct Scoping Process and Prepare Environmental Impact Statement NextEra Energy Point Beach, LLC; Point Beach Nuclear Plant, Unit Nos. 1 and 2

Comment On: NRC-2020-0277-0001

Notice of Intent To Conduct Scoping Process and Prepare Environmental Impact Statement; NextEra Energy Point Beach, LLC, Point Beach Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2

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General Comment

(Beyond Nuclear, public comment #8, Part 1 of 2)

This is a follow up on my public comment #2, re: OE (Operating Experience) at Point Beach.

I thank my colleagues at Nukewatch-Wisconsin for compiling the following Point Beach OE listing:

[Nukewatch

Kelly Lundeen and John LaForge, Co-directors

February 16, 2021

Wisconsin's nuclear power reactors at Point Beach are located on Lake Michigan. They have suffered frequent unplanned shutdowns caused by accidents, resulting in official warnings, fines, and even criminal convictions. If a company wants to continue to create tons of high level radioactive waste, they need to prove that they will be doing something different so that none of these accidents will happen again.

As of 2008 three "RED" findings — the highest failure warning issued by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) — had ever been made public.

At issue were safety procedures that were declared "inadequate" by NRC inspectors who said the failures existed "for many years and that the licensee had seven prior opportunities to identify these inadequacies." The failures and inaction were of "high safety significance (a Red finding)" under NRC rules. NRC inspectors found that Point Beach's owners continuously compromised the auxiliary [cooling]

feed-water pumps between 2001 and 2007.

January 15, 2008

At Pont Beach's Unit 1, an "Unusual Event" emergency was prompted by the complete loss of all offsite electric power to essential buses for more than 15 minutes, mandating a notification of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. A supply breaker opened "for unknown reasons," was being investigated and preparations were made for a Unit 1 shutdown. ³/₄ NRC Event No. 43907, Jan. 15, 2008

December 8, 2006

At Point Beach, the Control Room Emergency Filtration System was declared inoperable. The Control Room Charcoal Filter Fan tripped during a surveillance test, an event or condition that could have prevented the filter's performance during a contamination emergency or, in the NRC's words, "could have prevented fulfillment of a safety function." ³/₄ NRC Event No. 43040, Dec. 8, 2006

August 22, 2006

In an August 22, 2006 letter to Point Beach, the NRC charged that a senior reactor operator was discriminated against by the company's management for identifying potential technical violations. The discrimination was an apparent violation of employee protection requirements. — NRC, "Point Beach Summary," Inspection Procedure 95002, < nrc.gov/reactors/operating/ops-experience/degraded-cornerstone/pt-beach-summary.html>

December 16, 2005

Point Beach paid a \$60,000 fine imposed Jan. 13, 2006 after two workers "deliberately provided NRC inspectors with inaccurate information" about the critique of an emergency preparedness drill at the Point Beach reactor in August 2002. The two were fired, and one was convicted in federal court of knowingly making false written statements to the NRC. ³/₄ NRC News, No. III-05-046, Dec. 19, 2005

December 13, 2005

A manual reactor trip shut down Point Beach Unit 1, due to loss of a condenser vacuum caused by failure of the running circulating water pump. Decay heat was being removed by "atmospheric dump valves." The backup feed-water system was required. The operator, Florida Power & Light, said there are no known steam generator tube leak issues. ³/₄ Notification to NRC, Dec. 13, 2005

November 9, 2004

While operating at 100 percent power, Point Beach Unit 2 sprang a steam leak from a valve in the main steam flow transmitter. The leak of potentially contaminated steam forced an unplanned shutdown. The leak involved what is called "containment penetration" of the main steam line passing through the concrete containment building. Accordingly, operators declared a Technical Specification Condition "not met," forcing operators to isolate the "affected penetration flow path with a completion time of 72 hours." Operators were unable to meet the allowed completion time for this task. ³/₄ NRC Event No. 41212, Notification, Nov. 19, 2004

April 8, 2004

Point Beach paid a \$60,000 fine imposed March 20, for last summer's problems with the reactor's backup cooling pumps. ³/₄ The Capital Times, March 20, 2004

February 11, 2004

The ongoing risk of a breakdown in Point Beach's cooling feed-water pumps results in a NRC "RED" finding, the agency's most severe safety failure warning. ³/₄ NRC News, Feb. 11, 2004

October 2002

A "RED" finding was issued by the NRC against Point Beach for problems with cold water circulation for cooling the reactor.

NRC News, Feb. 11, 2004

(to be continued in Part 2)