

October 2, 2003

Mr. W. L. Berg
General Manager
Dairyland Power Cooperative
3200 East Avenue South
P.O. Box 817
La Crosse, WI 54602-0817

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT 05000409/2003-003(DNMS) -
LA CROSSE BOILING WATER REACTOR (LACBWR)

Dear Mr. Berg:

On September 3-5, 2003, the NRC conducted an inspection at LACBWR Nuclear Plant. The purpose of the inspection was to determine whether decommissioning activities were conducted safely and in accordance with NRC requirements. Specifically, the inspectors evaluated emergency preparedness and radiological safety. At the conclusion of the inspection on September 5, 2003, the NRC inspectors discussed the findings with members of your staff.

The inspection consisted of an examination of decommissioning activities at the LACBWR Nuclear Plant as they relate to safety and compliance with the Commission's rules and regulations. Areas examined during the inspection are identified in the enclosed report. Within these areas, the inspection consisted of a selective examination of procedures and representative records, and interviews with personnel.

Based on the results of this inspection, the NRC did not identify any violations. Overall, the activities inspected were conducted in compliance with the Decommissioning Plan, the Quality Assurance Program, and Technical Specifications.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be made available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the NRC's document system (ADAMS), accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

W. Berg

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We will gladly discuss any questions you have concerning this inspection.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Christopher G. Miller, Chief
Decommissioning Branch

Docket No. 05000409
License No. DPR-45

Enclosure: Inspection Report 05000409/2003-003(DNMS)

cc w/encl: Roger Christians, Plant Manager
B. D. Burks, P.E., Director, Bureau of Field Operations
J. Mettner, Chairman, Wisconsin Public
Service Commission
Spark Burmaster, Coulee Region Energy Coalition
State Liaison Officer
Chief, Radiation Protection Section
WI Department of Health
Social Services, Division of Health

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U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION III

Docket No. 05000409
License No. DPR-45

Report No. 05000409/2003-003 (DNMS)

Licensee: Dairyland Power Cooperative
3200 East Avenue South
La Crosse, WI 54602

Facility: La Crosse Boiling Water Reactor

Location: La Crosse Site
Genoa, Wisconsin

Dates: September 3-5, 2003

Inspectors: Peter J. Lee, Ph.D., CHP, Radiation Specialist
Edward L. Kulzer, CIH, CSP, Radiation Specialist

Approved by: Christopher G. Miller, Chief
Decommissioning Branch

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

La Crosse Boiling Water Reactor NRC Inspection Report 05000409/2003-003(DNMS)

This routine decommissioning inspection covered aspects of decommissioning performance, maintenance and surveillance, emergency preparedness, and radiological safety.

Decommissioning Support Activities

- The inspectors determined that both the Fuel Element Storage and Radiation Handling systems were maintained sufficiently and would fulfill their intended functions. These systems were being appropriately monitored in accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR Part 50.65. (Section 1.1)
- The NRC inspectors determined that the licensee's site security and emergency plan staffing, facilities, and procedures were adequate to accomplish emergency preparedness actions necessary in response to the ICM proposed by the Safeguards Order dated May 23, 2002. The licensee had made plan or procedure changes appropriate to the needs of the site. The licensee had complied with the intent of Section B.4.c of the Safeguards Order dated May 23, 2002. (Section 1.2.1)
- The licensee had developed adequate site specific EALs and had complied with the intent of Section B.4.d of the Safeguards Order dated May 23, 2002. The licensee demonstrated they could adequately implement their emergency plan. (Section 1.2.2)

Radiological Safety

- In the activities inspected, the licensee continued to effectively control exposure to radiation, maintain effective contamination control processes, and properly calibrate their instruments. (Section 2.1)

Report Details¹

Summary of Plant Activities

The ongoing licensee's activities were focused on routine operations regarding the safe storage (SAFSTOR) of spent fuel in the fuel pool and removal of the main steam piping system.

1.0 Decommissioning Support Activities

1.1 Maintenance and Surveillance at Permanently Shut Down Reactors (62801)

a. Scope

The NRC inspectors conducted a detailed review of the licensee's performance regarding the monitoring of the Fuel Element Storage and Radiation Monitoring systems as required under 10 CFR Part 50.65 (Maintenance Rule). The inspectors reviewed the assessments, goals, maintenance and calibration records for these two systems for a two-year period. The licensee had a total of nine systems that applied under this rule, which included: Fuel Handling; Building Containment; Radiation Monitoring; Component Cooling Water; Fuel Element Storage; Demineralized Water; Overhead Storage Tank; Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning; and Electrical Distribution. The inspectors also conducted a less detailed review of the licensee's assessments made on the other seven of these systems.

b. Observations and Findings

The inspectors determined that the safety significance of all nine systems had been properly assessed by a licensee management team. The team had set goals and monitoring frequencies for each of the nine systems as specified under Sections (a)(1) and (a)(2) of 10 CFR Part 50.65.

The inspectors determined the licensee provided a backup for both the Fuel Element Storage and Radiation Handling systems. When one system was being calibrated, the licensee was operating a redundant system. The licensee had calibrated both of these systems over the past two-year period. The systems were working appropriately and required no corrective maintenance.

The licensee was required to monitor the maintenance of systems covered under this rule. The NRC inspectors reviewed this monitoring. The licensee documented the required monitoring in a report titled, "Monitoring the Effectiveness of Maintenance at LACBWR Program," dated April 2000. Based on the review of the maintenance and calibration records, the NRC inspectors determined the maintenance rule was being followed.

¹NOTE: A list of acronyms used in the report is included at the end of the Report Details.

c. Conclusions

The inspectors determined that both the Fuel Element Storage and Radiation Handling systems were maintained sufficiently and would fulfill their intended functions. These systems were being appropriately monitored in accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR Part 50.65. The inspectors had no concerns in this area.

1.2 Emergency Preparedness (TI 2561/004)

1.2.1 Adequacy of Site Security and Emergency Plans

a. Scope

The inspectors reviewed the site security and emergency plans and actions taken by the licensee to assure that the emergency onsite staffing, facilities, and procedures were adequate to accomplish actions necessary in response to the Interim Compensatory Measures (ICM) proposed by the Safeguards Order dated May 23, 2002. The inspectors verified that plan or procedure changes were appropriate to the needs of the site. This review corresponded to Section B.4.c of the Order and Section IV.A of Appendix C to NRC TI 2561/004.

b. Observations and Findings

The inspectors determined that the licensee had reviewed the LACBWR Emergency Plan Procedures, Fire Protection Procedures, Security Plan Procedures, and Operating Manual Emergency Operating Procedures against the Safeguards Order dated May 23, 2002. The licensee's review identified a conflict between the Security and Fire Protection Plans, which the licensee subsequently addressed.

The licensee assessed the emergency facilities and determined them to be adequate and in agreement with LACBWR's emergency procedures and that appropriate personnel have been trained. The licensee identified one area for improvement. The inspectors did not identify any problems with the licensee's emergency facilities.

The NRC inspectors determined that the documentation listing various offsite organizations was adequate. The licensee was working with the local law enforcement agency, the Genoa Fire Department, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the coal-fired generating plant Genoa 3, and the Vernon County Emergency Management to ensure that all emergency response actions would be adequately coordinated. The licensee was negotiating a formal agreement with USACE which would address emergency situations.

c. Conclusions

The NRC inspectors determined that the licensees' site security and emergency plan staffing, facilities, and procedures were adequate to accomplish emergency preparedness actions necessary in response to the ICM proposed by the Safeguards Order dated May 23, 2002. The licensee had made plan or procedure changes appropriate to the needs of the site. The licensee had complied with the intent of Section B.4.c of the Safeguards Order dated May 23, 2002.

1.2.2 Emergency Action Levels

a. Scope

The NRC inspectors verified that the licensee had developed emergency action levels (EALs) to ensure that site-specific, ICM-related events would result in a declaration of at least a notification of unusual event (NOUE). The inspectors also verified that the licensee had reviewed and validated a strategy for escalation to higher-level event classifications. This review corresponded to Section B.4.d of the Order and Section IV.B of Appendix C to NRC TI 2561/004.

b. Objectives and Findings

The NRC inspectors reviewed Dairyland Power Memorandum, "Response to Surveillance #87-10," dated August 19, 2003, which contained Corrective Action Report 87-10. This corrective action report addressed the establishment of site specific security related Emergency Action Levels. The licensee planned to declare an NOUE or an Alert for confirmed security events at LACBWR.

The licensee conducted an emergency drill which involved the staffs of the following departments: Management and Operations, Health Physics and Security, as well as other onsite personnel. The licensee set the following objectives for the drill: recognize, assess, and classify an event; make required offsite notifications within allotted times; test communications between Management and Operations, Health Physics, Security, and onsite staff; and test the availability of LACBWR evacuation sirens.

The NRC inspectors were present for the drill and critique. The inspectors noted some weaknesses in three way communication, onsite staff notification of the NOUE, and in operators' use of the repeat message system. Overall, the inspectors determined that the licensee had accomplished its objectives for the drill.

c. Conclusions

The licensee had developed adequate site specific EALs and had complied with the intent of Section B.4.d of the Safeguards Order dated May 23, 2002. The licensee demonstrated they could adequately implement their emergency plan.

2.0 **Radiological Safety**

2.1 Occupational Radiation Exposure (83750)

a. Scope

The inspectors examined and evaluated aspects of the Radiation Protection Program. Specific areas evaluated included external and internal exposure control, radiological surveying, and contamination control.

b. Observations and Findings

A review of the licensee's general air sampling data taken from the Reactor Building and Turbine Building from June 2003 to August 2003 did not indicate the presence of any licensed materials. The only isotopes identified were daughter products of Radon 220 and 222.

A review of the external exposure records and breathing zone air sampling data taken during dismantlement of the main steam piping system from June 2003 to August 2003 showed that the workers received no significant exposure from these work activities.

The inspectors reviewed the direct radiation survey and smear sample results from the Reactor Building and Turbine Building from June 2003 to August 2003 and determined that the licensee complied with procedural requirements, and that the contaminated areas were adequately controlled. Contamination levels within the facility were kept to a minimum.

The inspectors reviewed the calibration procedures for radiation survey meters, and observed the station personnel calibrating radiation survey meters to ascertain whether or not the instruments were adequately calibrated. Additionally, the inspectors verified the calibration results by exposing the survey meters to known exposure rates in the calibration range. The inspectors determined that the licensee had calibrated the instruments properly and was in compliance with procedural requirements.

c. Conclusions

In the activities inspected, the licensee continued to effectively control exposure to radiation, maintain effective contamination control processes, and properly calibrate their instruments.

3.0 Exit Meeting

The inspectors presented inspection results to members of the licensee's staff at the conclusion of the inspection on September 5, 2003. The licensee did not identify any of the documents or processes reviewed by the inspectors as proprietary.

PARTIAL LIST OF PERSONS CONTACTED

- * R. Christians, Plant Manager
- * R. Cota, Training/Security Supervisor
- * J. Henkelman, Quality Assurance Specialist
- * M. Johnsen, Tech Support Engineer
- * L. Nelson, Health and Safety Supervisor
- * S. Rafferty, Reactor Engineer
- * M. Moe, Captain, Burns Security
- * D. Egge, Quality Assurance Supervisor
- * R. Lewton, Electrician & Instrument Technician
- * J. McRill, Tech Support Engineer

* Denotes those attending the exit meeting on September 5, 2003.

INSPECTION PROCEDURES USED

IP 62801: Maintenance and Surveillance at Permanently Shut Down Reactors
IP 83750: Occupational Radiation Exposure
TI 2561/004 Safeguards and Emergency Preparedness Inspection of Interim Compensatory Measures at Decommissioning Power Reactors

LIST OF DOCUMENTS REVIEWED

The licensee documents reviewed and utilized during the course of this inspection are specifically identified in the "Report Details" above.

ITEMS OPENED, CLOSED, AND DISCUSSED

None

INITIALISM AND ACRONYMS

ICM	Interim Compensatory Measures
EALs	Emergency Action Levels
NOUE	Notification of Unusual Event
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
LACBWR	La Crosse Boiling Water Reactor
SAFSTOR	Safe Storage