



NRC NEWS

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NRC ISSUES CONFIRMATORY ORDER IN EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION CASE AT POINT BEACH NUCLEAR PLANT

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has issued a Confirmatory Order to Nuclear Management Co., operator of the Point Beach Nuclear Power Station, for a violation of the Commission's regulations protecting workers who raise safety issues from employment discrimination. The Point Beach plant is located near Two Rivers, Wis.

An investigation by the NRC's Office of Investigation determined that a Senior Reactor Operator at the Point Beach plant was discriminated against in December 2004 by plant management for raising safety issues involving deficiencies in a safety system operating procedure. The operator had identified possible violations of NRC requirements in a document prepared as part of the plant's correction action program, and the NRC investigation determined that raising the issue had affected the operator's employee evaluation.

The Order issued by the NRC confirms the company's agreement to take corrective actions at the Point Beach plant and at the other three plants operated by Nuclear Management Co., Palisades in Michigan and Monticello and Prairie Island in Minnesota. The company agreed to review and revise its policy for the writing of correction action reports and to train employees and managers on management's expectation that employees should not be discouraged from using the corrective action program.

Nuclear Management Co. supervisors and managers are to be provided with training on the company's policies for maintaining a safety conscious work environment, one in which employees are free to raise safety issues without concern for retaliation or discrimination.

The corrective actions being taken by the company at its four sites were the result of an agreement reached between the company and the NRC staff through an Alternative Disputes Resolution process, conducted by an independent mediator on October 31, 2006. There is no fine or other enforcement action associated with the Order.

The Confirmatory Order will be available on the NRC's web site at: <http://www.nrc.gov/what-we-do/regulatory/enforcement/current.html#reactor> and from the Region III Office of Public Affairs.

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