



# NRC NEWS

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## NRC APPROVES INCREASED POWER OUTPUT FOR POINT BEACH NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has approved a request by NextEra Energy to increase the generating capacity of both Units 1 and 2 at the Point Beach Nuclear Plant by 17 percent.

The NRC staff determined that NextEra could safely increase the reactors' output primarily by carrying out significant upgrades to several plant systems and components, including safety-related pumps and valves, as well as the turbine-generator set. NRC staff also reviewed NextEra's evaluations showing the plant's design can handle the increased power level.

The NRC's safety evaluation of the plant's proposed power uprate focused on several areas, such as the nuclear steam supply systems, instrumentation and control systems, electrical systems, accident evaluations, radiological consequences, operations and training, testing, and technical specification changes. For added confidence in the analysis, the NRC staff also conducted independent calculations and evaluations of selected areas.

The power uprate for Point Beach Units 1 and 2, approximately 13 miles northwest of Manitowoc, Wisc., authorizes an increase of each reactor's generating capacity from approximately 512 to 600 megawatts electric. NextEra is implementing the uprate for Unit 2 during its current refueling outage, and intends to implement the uprate for Unit 1 during its fall 2011 refueling outage.

The NRC previously published a notice about the power uprate application in the *Federal Register* (<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/pdf/2010-28963.pdf>, page 70305), providing the public an opportunity to comment or request a hearing. The agency's evaluation of the Point Beach power uprate will be available through the NRC's ADAMS [electronic document database](#) by entering ML110450159 under the "Simple Search" tab. More information on uprates is available on the NRC [website](#).

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