

Mr. James Knubel
 Chief Nuclear Officer
 Power Authority of the State
 of New York
 123 Main Street
 White Plains, NY 10601

April 7, 1998

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT FOR EXEMPTION ALLOWING THE USE OF ALTERNATIVE METHODOLOGY FOR PRESSURE AND TEMPERATURE LIMITS FOR INDIAN POINT NUCLEAR GENERATING UNIT NO. 3 (TAC NO. M99928)

Dear Mr. Knubel:

Enclosed is a copy of the Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact for the Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit No. 3 (IP3). The assessment relates to your application dated January 28, 1998. The proposed request would exempt IP3 from the requirements of 10 CFR 50.60 to allow the use of the methodology developed by ABB Combustion Engineering Nuclear Operations for developing pressure-temperature limits for IP3.

The assessment is being forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

George F. Wunder, Project Manager
 Project Directorate I-1
 Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
 Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-286

Enclosure: Environmental Assessment

cc w/encl: See next page

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 FOR EXEMPTION ALLOWING THE USE OF ALTERNATIVE METHODOLOGY
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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

April 7, 1998

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Chief Nuclear Officer
Power Authority of the State
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123 Main Street
White Plains, NY 10601

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
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The assessment is being forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George F. Wunder".

George F. Wunder, Project Manager
Project Directorate I-1
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-286

Enclosure: Environmental Assessment

cc w/encl: See next page

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
POWER AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
INDIAN POINT NUCLEAR GENERATING UNIT NO. 3
DOCKET NO. 50-286
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF
NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR 50.60 for Facility Operating License No. DPR-64, issued to the Power Authority of the State of New York (the licensee), for operation of the Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit No. 3 (IP3) located in Westchester County, New York.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of the Proposed Action:

The proposed action would exempt the licensee from the requirements of 10 CFR 50.60 to allow the use of the ABB Combustion Engineering Nuclear Operations methodology (the CE methodology) for developing pressure-temperature (P-T) limits.

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application for exemption dated January 28, 1998.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

Pursuant to 10 CFR 50.60, all light water nuclear power reactors must meet the fracture toughness requirements for the reactor coolant pressure boundary as set forth in 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix G. The licensee used the a methodology by ABB Combustion Engineering Nuclear Operations (the CE methodology) for constructing its P-T limits in place of the 1989 ASME Appendix G methodology approved by the staff in the regulations; therefore, the licensee applied for an exemption to use the CE methodology.

James Knubel
Power Authority of the State
of New York

Indian Point Nuclear Generating
Unit No. 3

cc:

Regional Administrator, Region I
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
475 Allendale Road
King of Prussia, PA 19406

Resident Inspector
Indian Point 3 Nuclear Power Plant
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
P.O. Box 337
Buchanan, NY 10511

Mr. Gerald C. Goldstein
Assistant General Counsel
Power Authority of the State
of New York
1633 Broadway
New York, NY 10019

Mr. Charles W. Jackson, Manager
Nuclear Safety and Licensing
Consolidated Edison Company
of New York, Inc.
Broadway and Bleakley Avenues
Buchanan, NY 10511

Mr. Eugene W. Zeltmann, President
and Chief Operating Officer
Power Authority of the State
of New York
123 Main Street
White Plains, NY 10601

Mayor, Village of Buchanan
236 Tate Avenue
Buchanan, NY 10511

Mr. Robert J. Barrett
Site Executive Officer
Indian Point 3 Nuclear Power Plant
P.O. Box 215
Buchanan, NY 10511

Mr. Richard L. Patch, Director
Quality Assurance
Power Authority of the State
of New York
123 Main Street
White Plains, NY 10601

Ms. Charlene D. Faison
Director Nuclear Licensing
Power Authority of the State
of New York
123 Main Street
White Plains, NY 10601

Mr. Paul Eddy
New York State Dept. of
Public Service
3 Empire State Plaza, 10th Floor
Albany, NY 12223

Mr. F. William Valentino, President
New York State Energy, Research,
and Development Authority
Corporate Plaza West
286 Washington Ave. Extension
Albany, NY 12203-6399

Mr. Robert Hargrove
Environmental Review Coordinator
26 Federal Plaza
New York, NY 10278

Charles Donaldson, Esquire
Assistant Attorney General
New York Department of Law
120 Broadway
New York, NY 10271

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the CE methodology for developing P-T limits and concludes that there will be no physical or operational changes to IP3.

The Commission has evaluated the environmental impact of the proposed action and has determined that the probability or consequences of accidents would not be increased by the proposed action, and that post-accident radiological releases would not be greater than previously determined. Further, the Commission has determined that the proposed action would not affect routine radiological exposure. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed action would not affect nonradiological plant effluents and would have no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action:

Since the Commission has concluded that there are not significant environmental effects that would result from the proposed action, any alternatives with equal or greater environmental impact need not be evaluated.

The principal alternative would be to deny the requested action. Denial of the application would result in no change in current environmental impacts. The environmental impacts of the proposed action and the alternative action are identical.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement for Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit No. 3, dated February 1975.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

In accordance with its stated policy, on March 19, 1998, the staff consulted with the New York State Official, Jack Spath, of the New York State Research and Development Authority regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments.

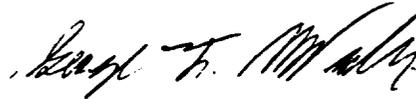
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Based upon the environmental assessment, the Commission concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed action.

For further details with respect to the proposed action, see the licensee's letter dated January 28, 1998, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and at the local public document room located at the White Plains Public Library, 100 Martine Avenue, White Plains, New York 10610.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 7th day of April 1998.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



George F. Wunder, Project Manager
Project Directorate I-1
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation