

January 4, 2002

Mr. David A. Lochbaum
Nuclear Safety Engineer
Union of Concerned Scientists
1707 H Street NW Suite 600
Washington, DC 20006-3919

Dear Mr. Lochbaum:

In your letter of October 23, 2001, you questioned changes to NRC inspections at Indian Point Unit 2 referred to in our October 15th letter to Entergy. Entergy's self-assessment efforts were presented to the NRC in a letter dated September 14, 2001, and included plans to perform a comprehensive evaluation by an independent team of 28 people over a three week period. The results of this assessment, which was subsequently completed in October, are to be used by Entergy to evaluate the effectiveness of corrective actions and to revise the current performance improvement plan.

The NRC considered the changes to our inspection plans, which involved modifying an engineering team inspection and rescheduling a problem identification and resolution (PIR) team inspection, to be prudent in light of the potential benefits to be gained from an extensive self-assessment. The NRC will assess the effectiveness of Entergy's self-assessment activities in future inspections by evaluating the extent to which the licensee was able to diagnose problems and develop and implement appropriate corrective actions.

Although the NRC inspection plan was changed, we have continued to implement the baseline inspection program and have provided additional oversight by completing the modified engineering inspection in November 2001. Oversight beyond the baseline program also includes a January 2002 inspection to review the Entergy self-assessment.

We provided our planned inspection schedule through the first half of 2002 to the licensee in a November 16, 2001, letter; a copy of which is enclosed. We consider the NRC inspection program at Indian Point Unit 2 to be appropriate for a plant designated as a multiple degraded cornerstone facility. However, additional inspection changes may result following NRC's oversight process assessments.

Again, thank you for your letter and I trust that the information provided is responsive to your concern.

Sincerely,

/RA/

William D. Travers
Executive Director for Operations

Enclosure: As stated
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Distribution: See next page

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