May 29, 2003

Mr. Michael R. Kansler, President
Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.
440 Hamilton Avenue
White Plains, NY 10601

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING REQUEST FOR RELAXATION FROM ORDER ESTABLISHING INTERIM INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS OF REACTOR VESSEL HEADS, INDIAN POINT NUCLEAR GENERATING UNIT NO. 3 (TAC NO. MB8163)

Dear Mr. Kansler:

In a letter dated March 27, 2003, Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. (ENO) requested a relaxation from certain requirements in an Order issued by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on February 11, 2003 (EA-03-009). Specifically, ENO requested a relaxation for Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit No. 3 from the inspection coverage when performing ultrasonic testing of each reactor vessel head penetration nozzle from 2 inches above the J-groove weld to the bottom of the nozzle, as specified in Section IV.C(2)(b)(i) of the Order.

The NRC staff is reviewing the information provided in the March 27 submittal and has determined that additional information is needed to complete its review. The specific questions are found in the enclosed request for additional information (RAI). During a telephone call on May 20, 2003, the ENO staff indicated that a response to the RAI would be provided within 90 days.

If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Patrick D. Milano, Sr. Project Manager, Section 1
Project Directorate 1
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-286

Enclosure: RAI

cc w/encl: See next page

May 29, 2003

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Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.
440 Hamilton Avenue
White Plains, NY 10601

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Patrick D. Milano, Sr. Project Manager, Section 1
Project Directorate 1
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-224 and 50-286
Enclosure: RAI
cc w/encl: See next page
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OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit No. 3

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Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit No. 3

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REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

REGARDING RELAXATION FROM NRC ORDER EA-03-009

INDIAN POINT NUCLEAR GENERATING UNIT NO. 3 (IP3)

DOCKET NO. 50-286

In a letter dated March 27, 2003, Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. (the licensee) requested relaxation from the performing ultrasonic testing (UT) of each reactor pressure vessel head penetration nozzle (i.e., nozzle base material), from 2 inches above the J-groove weld to the bottom of the nozzle. The licensee stated that the bottom 0.75 inch of the nozzle is threaded and designed to accommodate the installation of guide funnels. Due to the threads, the licensee stated that meaningful UT test data cannot be obtained in this region, due to dispersion of the UT signal. The licensee proposes to perform UT from 2 inches above the J-groove weld to the top of the threaded region, which is approximately 0.75 inch above the bottom of the nozzle.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has the following questions regarding the information provided in the relaxation request:

1. The licensee stated that a structural evaluation was performed for the IP3 nozzles.

   Provide the applicable technical data (i.e., operating stress levels, crack growth analysis, hoop stresses, etc.) which supports the conclusion that the area in the threaded region is insignificant.

2. The licensee stated that if cracking is detected above the threaded region, and extends into the threaded area, other nondestructive examination (NDE) methods would be used to determine the extent of cracking.

   Identify the particular NDE methods that would be utilized, and provide the justification why this additional NDE would not be proposed/performed as an alternative to the requirements in the Order.

Enclosure