February 19, 2004

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

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING APPLICATION TO EXTEND STEAM GENERATOR EXAMINATION INTERVAL, INDIAN POINT NUCLEAR GENERATING UNIT NO. 2 (TAC NO. MC1260)

Dear Mr. Kansler:

In a letter dated October 21, 2003, Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. (ENO) submitted a proposed amendment to change the Technical Specifications (TSs) for Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit No. 2 (IP2). The proposed amendment would revise TS Section 5.5.7, "Steam Generator Tube Surveillance Program," to allow a one-time extension of the frequency for examination of the tubes.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff is reviewing the information provided in the October 21 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 February 17, 2004, the ENO staff indicated that a response to the RAI would be provided within 45 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. 50-247

Enclosure: RAI

cc w/encl: See next page

February 19, 2004

Mr. Michael R. Kansler
Senior Vice President and
Chief Operating Officer
Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.
440 Hamilton Avenue
White Plains, NY 10601

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Enclosure: RAI
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Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit No. 2

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Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit No. 2

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Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit No. 2

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REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

REGARDING STEAM GENERATOR SURVEILLANCE INTERVAL

INDIAN POINT NUCLEAR GENERATING UNIT NO. 2 (IP2)

In a letter dated October 21, 2003, Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. (the licensee) submitted a proposed amendment to revise Technical Specifications (TSs) Section 5.5.7, "Steam Generator (SG) Tube Surveillance Program," to allow a one-time extension of the frequency for examination of the SG tubes. Specifically, the amendment would extend the examination, currently due no later than November 17, 2004, to June 17, 2006. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has the following questions regarding the information provided in the proposed amendment:

1. The licensee states that two of thirteen tubes found with anti-vibration bar (AVB) wear indications will be evaluated for stabilization prior to the next scheduled inspection. The licensee states that these two tubes had indications at all four AVB contact points and are not expected to wear to the point of causing tube to tube contact for the next four cycles. Provide a brief summary of the method used for performing this evaluation. State whether the remaining eleven tubes will also be evaluated for future stabilization? If not evaluated, discuss the reason?

2. The licensee states that as a result of the implementation of a 1.4% power uprate, the amount of wear expected over a 40-year lifetime is 2 mils (4% of the tube wall thickness), which is less than the allowable 3 mils. Provide additional clarification on this estimate since it seems to be at odds with experience to date at IP2 where thirteen tubes exhibited wear ranging between 5% (the detection threshold) and 20% of the wall thickness after just one operating cycle. Presumably, there may be undetected wear flaws which grew by as much as 5% over the first operating cycle, prior to the 1.4% power uprate.

3. Provide the expected percentage increase in wear rate expected as a result of the projected 3.26% power uprate conditions anticipated in the future, and provide a summary description of the basis for this estimate.

Enclosure