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Fred Dacimo
Site Vice President
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March 11, 2004
NL-04-026

Annette L. Vietti-Cook, Secretary
Office of the Secretary of the Commission
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attn: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff
Washington, DC 20555-0001

SUBJECT: Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.
Indian Point Nuclear Generating Stations 2 and 3
Docket Nos. 50-247 and 50-286
Answer to February 20, 2004 Revised NRC Order Regarding
Interim Inspection Requirements for Reactor Pressure Vessel Heads

References:
1. NRC letter dated February 20, 2004; R. W. Borchardt to Holders of Licenses for Operating Pressurized Water Reactors, "Issuance of First Revised NRC Order (EA-03-009) Establishing Interim Inspection Requirements for Reactor Pressure Vessel Heads at Pressurized Water Reactors."
2. Entergy letter to NRC, NL-03-054; "Relaxation Request Regarding Inspection of Reactor Pressure Vessel Head Nozzles", dated March 27, 2003.

Dear Ms. Vietti-Cook,

Pursuant to the requirements of 10 CFR 2.202(a)(2), Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc (Entergy) hereby submits for filing, in Attachment I, the answer to the NRC First Revised Order of February 20, 2004 regarding interim inspection requirements for reactor pressure vessel heads at pressurized water reactors. Entergy consents to the Order modifying the licenses for Indian Point Unit 2 (IP2) and Indian Point Unit 3 (IP3). This response is being provided per the instructions stated in Section V of the Order. Relaxations for plant specific configurations and situations at IP2 and IP3 will be requested in accordance with the provisions of section IV.F of the Order.

ENO previously submitted a relaxation request (Reference 2) based on the requirements of the initial version of the Order, issued February 11, 2003. The relaxation request involves inspection of the bottom portion of the penetration nozzles, in a region that is threaded for guide funnels. Although the revised Order modifies the requirements in this area, ENO will still need approval of the relaxation request.

A401
Recd 6/9/04

The next scheduled inspection in accordance with the requirements of the Order and approved relaxations for IP2 is Fall 2004 and for IP3 is Spring 2005.

There are no new commitments identified by this letter. Should you have questions regarding this matter, please contact Mr. Kevin Kingsley at 914-734-6695.

Sincerely,

[Original signed by J. Ventosa for FRD]
Fred R. Dacimo
Site Vice President
Indian Point Energy Center

Attachments:

I. Licensee's Answer to February 20, 2004 Commission First Revised Order Establishing Interim Inspection Requirements for Reactor Pressure Vessel Heads at Pressurized Water Reactors.

II. Certificate of Service

cc:

Mr. Samuel J. Collins, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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Mr. Hubert Miller
Regional Administrator, Region I
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Mr. Paul Eddy
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Albany, NY 12223

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

In the Matter of	)	
ENTERGY NUCLEAR OPERATIONS, INC.	)	Docket Nos. 50-247 and
Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit 2 and	)	50-286
Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit 3;	)	(EA-03-009)

LICENSEES' ANSWER TO FEBRUARY 20, 2004 COMMISSION FIRST REVISED ORDER ESTABLISHING INTERIM INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS FOR REACTOR VESSEL HEADS AT PRESSURIZED WATER REACTORS

On February 11, 2003, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission ("NRC" or "Commission") issued an immediately effective order in the captioned matter entitled First Revised Order Modifying Licenses (Effective Immediately) ("Order") to, *inter alia,* Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. The Order stated that recent experience indicated that current inspection requirements in Section XI of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code ("ASME Code") and related NRC regulations do not provide adequate assurance that reactor coolant pressure boundary integrity will be maintained for all combinations of construction materials, operating conditions, and operating histories at pressurized water reactors ("PWRs"). The Commission stated that long-term resolution of reactor pressure vessel ("RPV") head penetration inspection requirements is expected to involve changes to the ASME Code and NRC regulations, specifically 10 CFR 50.55a. Consequently, the Commission stated that it was necessary to establish a minimum set of RPV head inspection requirements, as a supplement to existing inspection and other requirements in the ASME Code and NRC regulations, through the issuance of the Order. Therefore, the Commission imposed interim inspection requirements set forth in Section IV of the Order pending the development of consensus standards and

incorporation of revised inspection requirements into 10 CFR 50.55a, directly or through reference to a future version of the ASME Code.

Since the issuance of the February 11, 2003 Order, the NRC staff has reviewed and granted many requests for relaxation thereof. As a result, the Commission issued the First Revised Order on February 20, 2004 to reflect changes in the requirements with respect to bare metal visual inspections, penetration nozzle inspection coverage, flexibility in combining non-destructive examination (NDE) methods, flaw evaluation, and requirements for plants which have replaced their reactor pressure vessel head. The First Revised Order supercedes the original Order (Effective Immediately).

Pursuant to 10 CFR 2.202(d), Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. ("Entergy") consents to the First Revised Order modifying the licenses for Indian Point Unit 2 and Indian Point Unit 3, as set forth in Section IV of the Order, and does not request a hearing in either of the dockets.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed 3-11-2004.

Respectfully submitted,
Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.

[Original signed by J. Ventosa for FRD]

Fred R. Dacimo
Site Vice President
Indian Point Energy Center

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

In the Matter of	)	
	)	
ENTERGY NUCLEAR OPERATIONS, INC.	)	
	)	Docket Nos. 50-247 and
Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit 2, and	)	
	)	50-286
Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit 3	)	
	)	(EA-03-009)

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify under penalty of perjury that copies of the LICENSEES' ANSWER TO FEBRUARY 20, 2004 COMMISSION FIRST REVISED ORDER ESTABLISHING INTERIM INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS FOR REACTOR PRESSURE VESSEL HEADS AT PRESSURIZED WATER REACTORS in the captioned action have been served on the following by deposit in the United States mail and, in addition, by facsimile (indicated by an asterisk ' * ') as directed in Section V of the order, on this 11th day of March 2004.

* Annette L. Vietti-Cook, Secretary
Office of the Secretary
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attn: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff
Washington, DC 20555-0001

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Fred R. Dacimo
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