EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: 06/27/07 EDO CONTROL: G20070402
DOC DT: 05/24/07
FINAL REPLY:

Stuart Gruskin
New York State Department of Enviornmental Conservation

TO:

Fred Dacimo

FOR SIGNATURE OF : ** GRN ** CRC NO: 07-0393

Dyer, NRR

DESC:

Concerns Reading of Tritium Concentrations at Indian Point

ROUTING:

Reyes
Virgilio
Kane
Ash
Ordaz
Burns/Cyr
Collins, RI
Fields, OEDO

DATE: 06/05/07

ASSIGNED TO: CONTACT:

NRR Dyer

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

Date Printed: Jun 05, 2007 10:51

PAPER NUMBER:	LTR-07-0393	**LOGGING DATE:**	06/05/2007
ACTION OFFICE:	EDO		
AUTHOR:	Mr. Stuart Gruskin		
AFFILIATION:	NY		
ADDRESSEE:	Mr. Fred Dacimo		
SUBJECT:	Concerns reading of tritium concentrations at Indian Point		
ACTION:	Direct Reply		
DISTRIBUTION:	RF, SECY to Ack.		
LETTER DATE:	05/24/2007		
ACKNOWLEDGED	No		
SPECIAL HANDLING:	Immediate release to the public via SECY/EDO/DPC		
NOTES:			
FILE LOCATION:	ADAMS		
DATE DUE:	06/27/2007	**DATE SIGNED:**	

EDO --G20070402

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Office of the Executive Deputy Commissioner, 14th Floor
625 Broadway, Albany, New York 12233-1010
Phone: (518) 402-8560 • **FAX:** (518) 402-9016
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Alexander B. Grannis
Commissioner

MAY 24 2007

Mr. Fred R. Dacimo
Site Vice President
Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.
Indian Point Energy Center
450 Broadway, GSB
P.O. Box 249
Buchanan, NY 10511-0249

Re: Indian Point Energy Center, Buchanan, New York

Dear Mr. Dacimo:

I have recently been advised by staff of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (Department) of elevated concentrations of tritium detected in the Indian Point sewer system. Readings made available on May 8, 2007 show that tritium concentrations had, in fact, doubled since the site's sewer system came under scrutiny in October 2006 before resuming previously detected concentrations. As you know, the site's sewer system discharges directly to the Village of Buchanan sewers and thus to their waste water treatment plant. Without being able to identify the source(s) of these higher concentrations there is no assurance that an increase in concentrations will not reoccur.

The Department is greatly concerned that migration of tritium through the groundwater at Indian Point will continue to result in detection of radiological contaminants in unexpected places. Although at present these readings do not exceed regulatory standards, the source of the tritium detected in Indian Point's sewer system has not been confirmed. The pathways are clearly not under Entergy's control, and the Department's concern is that additional pathways may be identified and that present concentrations of tritium will increase. The sewer intrusion therefore warrants an aggressive, thorough examination of area hydrogeology relative to the sewer system, as well as the integrity of the sewer system itself.

In the interest of protecting the public health and the environment, the Department requests that Entergy immediately expand and intensify its ongoing investigatory efforts to identify and remedy the source of the tritium detected in the sewer system. Currently, the Village of Buchanan's waste water treatment system is not required to monitor for the presence of radionuclides. The Department also urges that Entergy immediately undertake a

program for additional monitoring to locate the source of tritium in the sewer and strongly supports the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's ("NRC") recommendation that you add strontium to the list of radionuclides sampled from the Indian Point sewer.

Entergy's continuing investigation of tritium and strontium in on-site groundwater monitoring wells, conducted to trace leaks associated with two of Indian Point's spent fuel storage pools, has produced a body of information regarding on-site groundwater characteristics that may be useful in detecting and ultimately remedying the source of the tritium readings found in the sewer system. Because tritium (already detected in the groundwater) may be migrating into Indian Point's sewer system, and thus also leaving the Indian Point property, Entergy's overall investigatory efforts must now be redoubled in order to focus on rapidly identifying appropriate responsive measures to ensure that the Buchanan waste water treatment system is not adversely impacted.

By copy of this letter, I am asking the NRC to ensure that the source(s) of the tritium contamination be identified, and to take all necessary action to protect the adjacent community and natural resources.

While I appreciate that Entergy has worked cooperatively with Department staff and others on the groundwater characterization and sampling efforts, this most recent event illustrates the need for a greater level of attention to the possibility of intrusion of radioactive material into the sewer system. We will be carefully monitoring this situation, particularly with respect to the impacts within this Department's jurisdiction, on a going-forward basis.

Sincerely,

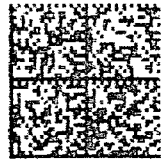
Stuart F. Gruskin
Executive Deputy Commissioner

cc.: NRC Chairman, Hon. Dale E. Klein ✓

00-00-30

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
625 Broadway
Albany NY 12233 1507

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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Honorable Dale E. Klein
Chairman, Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555