

June 25, 2007

Mr. Stuart F. Gruskin  
Executive Deputy Commissioner  
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
625 Broadway  
Albany, NY 12233-1010

Dear Mr. Gruskin:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to your May 24, 2007, letter to Mr. Fred Dacimo of Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. (Entergy), the licensee for Indian Point Nuclear Generating Units 2 and 3. Entergy had detected elevated levels of tritium in the Indian Point sewer system, which discharges to the Village of Buchanan's waste water treatment system. In your letter, you request that Entergy expand and intensify its investigatory efforts to identify and remedy the source of tritium. You also requested that the NRC "... 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."

I assure you that the NRC has been closely following the situation at Indian Point. Entergy complies with all Federal regulations regarding the discharge of radioactive isotopes. Regarding the elevated levels of tritium in the Indian Point sewer system, Entergy announced on May 31, 2007, that backup samples of the sewer system show that the initial indications of tritium were a "false positive", likely caused by interference due to some organic materials and chemicals commonly found in sewer systems. Further sample analyses by two different laboratories detected no tritium within the detection sensitivity of the analyses.

The Indian Point site does have low levels of radioactive isotopes in groundwater at the site. The NRC has conducted numerous inspections and monitored this closely since it was first reported by Entergy in September 2005. The NRC has sponsored a biweekly phone call since December 2005 to inform government officials and State agencies of developments in the investigation into the groundwater contamination. Mr. Tim Rice of your office participates in these phone calls. Entergy installed about 40 monitoring wells at the site, routinely analyzes samples from these wells, and has developed a sophisticated hydrology model of the site. The NRC and your Department frequently analyze simultaneous samples to verify the accuracy of Entergy's results. The groundwater contamination levels have shown no significant increases, and Entergy is working on long-range plans for monitoring, leakage isolation, and remediation. The NRC also requires licensees to conduct a radiological environmental monitoring program in which samples are taken from the environment in the vicinity of the plant and submit an annual report, which is publicly available, to the NRC.

S. Gruskin

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The NRC is charged with ensuring adequate protection of the public health and safety and protection of the environment by regulating how our licensees use and control radioactive materials. I can assure you that we are providing the oversight necessary to maintain public protection.

Sincerely,

***/RA/***

J. E. Dyer, Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-247 and 50-286

cc: See next page

S. Gruskin

- 2 -

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**/RA/**

J. E. Dyer, Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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\*Via telecon

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