



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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NRC TO CONTINUE ENHANCED OVERSIGHT OF INDIAN POINT IN 2008

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission will continue to conduct additional inspections at the Indian Point nuclear power plant throughout 2008 to ensure issues associated with on-site groundwater contamination and the facility's new siren system are being properly addressed. Entergy Nuclear operates Indian Point, which is located in Buchanan (Westchester County), N.Y.

Overall, the NRC considers Entergy's operation of Indian Point to be acceptable, with both operating units currently in the category of oversight that would typically result in a baseline, or routine, level of inspections. The NRC's Action Matrix, available at http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/actionmatrix_summary.html, shows both Indian Point 2 and 3 at present in the "Licensee Response Column."

However, NRC Region I Administrator Samuel J. Collins, in a request to the agency's Executive Director for Operations, Luis A. Reyes, wrote that ongoing issues involving groundwater contamination at the site and the performance of the new Alert and Notification System (ANS) present "unique challenges" to the NRC's regulatory oversight of the plant.

"This inspection program deviation is needed to ensure that in 2008 the NRC can continue to inspect Entergy's resolution of the groundwater remediation efforts, installation and testing of the ANS, and communicate the issues to interested stakeholders," Mr. Collins wrote. "This level of inspection effort is in addition to the four Resident Inspectors assigned to the Indian Point site."

Mr. Reyes approved the formal request, in the form of a "deviation memo," on Dec. 20.

The deviation memo marks a continuation of additional NRC oversight at Indian Point that was first approved in October 2005 and then renewed in December 2006, providing more resources for inspecting the plant in 2006 and 2007, respectively.

In the near future, Entergy is expected to submit to the NRC a final report regarding its efforts to characterize on-site groundwater contamination. With regard to the new siren system, the NRC continues to work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the State of New York and local counties to monitor Entergy's progress in resolving technical issues that must be addressed before the system can be placed into operation.

A copy of the deviation memo will be posted on the NRC web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/plant-specific-items/indian-point-issues.html> .

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