



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

February 17, 2009

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

SUBJECT: INDIAN POINT NUCLEAR GENERATING UNIT NO. 3 - ACCEPTANCE OF REQUESTED LICENSING ACTION RE: RELIEF REQUESTS RR-3-45, RR-3-46, RR-3-47(1), AND RR-3-48 FOR REACTOR VESSEL INSPECTIONS (TAC NOS. ME0411, ME0412, ME0413, AND ME0414)

Dear Sir or Madam:

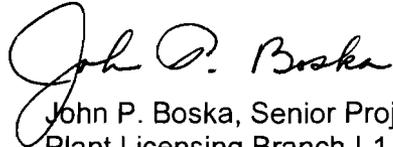
By letter dated January 22, 2009, Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. (Entergy) submitted relief requests for Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit No. 3. The proposed relief requests would modify the inservice inspections on the reactor vessel top and bottom penetrations and on the shell to flange weld required by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code. The purpose of this letter is to provide the results of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff's acceptance review of these relief requests. The acceptance review was performed to determine if there is sufficient technical information in scope and depth to allow the NRC staff to complete its detailed technical review. The acceptance review is also intended to identify whether the application has any readily apparent information insufficiencies in its characterization of the regulatory requirements or the licensing basis of the plant.

Pursuant to Sections 50.55a(a)(3)(i) and 50.55a(a)(3)(ii) of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), the applicant shall demonstrate that the proposed alternatives would provide an acceptable level of quality and safety, or that compliance with the specified requirements of Section 50.55a would result in hardship or unusual difficulty without a compensating increase in the level of quality or safety.

The NRC staff has reviewed your application and initially concluded that additional information was needed in order to begin the technical reviews on TACs ME0413 and ME0414. Entergy supplied the additional information by letter dated February 6, 2009. The NRC staff now concludes that the application with the supplement provides technical information in sufficient detail to enable the staff to proceed with its detailed technical review and make an independent assessment regarding the acceptability of the proposed relief requests in terms of regulatory requirements. If additional information is needed for the staff to complete its technical review, you will be advised by separate correspondence.

Please contact me at (301) 415-2901 if you have any questions on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John P. Boska". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "B".

John P. Boska, Senior Project Manager  
Plant Licensing Branch I-1  
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-286

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- 2 -

Please contact me at (301) 415-2901 if you have any questions on this issue.

Sincerely,

/RA/

John P. Boska, Senior Project Manager  
Plant Licensing Branch I-1  
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-286

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*/RA/*

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