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Date: 10/5/05 5:58PM
Subject: IPEC Status Report for October 5

Indian Point Energy Center

Daily Status Report

October 5, 2005

Operational Status - IP3 Shut Down to Repair CRDM Cables

Indian Point Unit 2 is operating at 100% and has been online 305 days.

Indian Point Unit 3 is off-line to repair an electrical short in the cabling associated with a control rod drive mechanism. The unit has been in a forced outage since Saturday and should be on-line before the end of the week.

Entergy Continues Investigation Into Hairline Cracks in IP2 Pool Wall

Entergy installed a water collection system to trap the moisture from the pool-wall cracks and is now collecting about 1 to 2 liters per day. Engineers continue conducting structural and water transport calculations to determine whether the moisture is from a leak in the pool or was trapped water from previous operations.

Entergy also is evaluating the pool's stainless steel inner liner, including a section of the pool that was repaired about 12 years ago.

Water samples have been taken from three monitoring wells down stream of the IP2 pool. Analyses of the samples have identified one of the three wells as having tritium. Tritium is a radioactive isotope of hydrogen.

The well that had small amounts of tritium in it is located about 200 feet from the IP2 spent fuel pool, but we don't know yet if the pool is the source of the tritium. Concentrations of tritium in the pool is about 100 times greater than the samples taken from the well

Entergy has also engaged a specialty firm to study the site hydrology (the movement of water underground) and make recommendations for continued monitoring. We are also working with industry groups to capture relevant operating experience as well as experts in hydrology from the NRC.

Background

During excavation inside the IP2 Fuel Storage Building loading bay, two small hairline settlement cracks were identified on the loading bay side of the pool wall. The excavation was part of a project to reinforce the bay floor to support a new gantry crane to be used to load spent fuel into containers for dry storage.

One of the concrete walls of the spent fuel pool is adjacent to the area being excavated. The pool is a free standing structure, designed and built so that the adjacent soil (the soil being excavated) does not provide

structural support for the pool. At a depth of about 20 feet down in the excavation, a very narrow (hairline) crack was found in the pool wall, with a small amount of moisture in and around the crack. Subsequently a similar crack was found several feet below the first one.

One of the cracks showed a small amount of moisture, which contained boron and trace (very low level) amounts of radioactivity.

The cracks are roughly horizontal and several feet in length, and have been inspected by IPEC civil/structural engineers and a team of inspectors from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Preliminary indications are that they occurred when the pool was constructed over thirty years ago, and is typical of the types of narrow cracks that can form in concrete due to shrinkage after the concrete is poured and cures.

The spent-fuel pool has four-to-six feet thick walls with a one-quarter inch stainless steel inner liner, and the fuel itself is entirely underground. There are 1,151 assemblies stored in the pool.

The potential environmental impact is minimal. Soil samples taken three feet from the area where the moisture was detected showed normal background levels of radiation. Deep-depth core borings taken earlier as part of the dry-cask storage project in six locations near the pool showed no elevated levels of radioactivity..

Indian Point Unit 1 Spent Fuel Pool

Indian Point Unit 1 began commercial operation in 1962 and continued to operate until the early 1970's when the then owner, Consolidated Edison, decided to retire the unit. The Unit 1 spent fuel pool is an early design which consists of five interconnected pools, two storage pools and three auxiliary pools. Currently there are 160 fuel assemblies in the "West" pool at Unit 1.

Before Entergy purchased Unit 1, a leak of about 25 gallon per day was identified in the spent fuel pool. The water is being safely collected into a drainage system just outside the pool and processed to well below federal release limits. The NRC has inspected the pools and has approved the method for safely managing them. The leak became public knowledge at the time it was discovered.

After Entergy purchased Unit 2 and Unit 1 from Consolidated Edison, the company developed a plan to improve the material condition of Unit 1 including the spent fuel pool. Part of the plan being implemented includes removal of the fuel from the Unit 1 pool for placement in dry storage casks as interim storage until a national repository is built. Prior to storing the fuel assemblies in dry casks, Entergy is cleaning and inspecting the assemblies. Once the fuel assemblies are transferred to dry cask, the spent fuel pool will be emptied, which will eliminate any leakage. The process will take about 2 years to complete.

Entergy has begun cleaning and inspecting the fuel assemblies. In order for the fuel assemblies to be inspected, they must be raised up out of the fuel racks. To provide additional shielding the water level in the West pool has been raised by about 8 feet. As expected, more water has flowed from the West pool to the adjacent pools through old leakage paths. Entergy is measuring about 500 gallons per day while the pool water level is raised. The water is collecting in the adjacent pools. Entergy is monitoring the curtain drains and has seen no increase in flow rate or activity. The curtain drains collect the leakage from Unit 1 for sampling and processing prior to discharge. All discharges from Unit 1 are well below federal limits and are reported monthly in the site's effluent report.

Indian Point Unit 3 Spent Fuel Pool

The IP3 spent-fuel pool is similar to IP2's except for one significant design feature. IP3 has a leak detection system that captures water between the one-quarter inch steel liner and the steel-reinforced cement walls. Unlike the IP2 pool, the steel liner is offset from the wall, permitting us to quickly identify and collect leakage. There is no indication of any leak from IP3's spent fuel pool. The pool contains 1,013 fuel assemblies.

Update Dry Cask Storage Factsheets Available

Entergy has produced an updated informational brochure, available in electronic and hardcopy format that explains the details of dry cask storage. Contact Andrea Blizard at 914-271-7081 or by return email at kmcmull@entergy.com <<mailto:kmcmull@entergy.com>> for a copy.

Entergy Nuclear Northeast provides customized outreach education programs for schools, youth groups, and civic organizations. The topics we cover include Emergency Planning, Understanding Radiation, Nuclear Fuel and a general overview of the operations of Indian Point Energy Center. If you would like a brochure or are interested in scheduling a program, contact IPEC Communications at 914-271-7441.

IPEC has a toll-free number, 800-822-9602, for radiological information on liquid and airborne releases as permitted in our operating licenses. Please note that there is now a single number for both IP2 and IP3.

If you have any questions or need clarification of the information provided, please contact Kathy McMullin, manager of communications, Indian Point Energy Center, at 914-271-7132.