

IPRenewal NPEmails

From: Green, Kimberly
Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2009 12:08 PM
To: STROUD, MICHAEL D; Tyner, Donna
Subject: Press Release
Attachments: ML0922400501.pdf

Attached is a copy of the press release.

Hearing Identifier: IndianPointUnits2and3NonPublic_EX
Email Number: 1629

Mail Envelope Properties (Kimberly.Green@nrc.gov20090812120700)

Subject: Press Release
Sent Date: 8/12/2009 12:07:37 PM
Received Date: 8/12/2009 12:07:00 PM
From: Green, Kimberly

Created By: Kimberly.Green@nrc.gov

Recipients:
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Tracking Status: None

Post Office:

Files	Size	Date & Time
MESSAGE ML0922400501.pdf	42 189885	8/12/2009 12:07:00 PM

Options
Priority: Standard
Return Notification: No
Reply Requested: No
Sensitivity: Normal
Expiration Date:
Recipients Received:



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Office of Public Affairs Telephone: 301/415-8200

Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

E-mail: opa.resource@nrc.gov

Site: <http://www.nrc.gov>

No. 09-133

August 12, 2009

NRC ISSUES FINAL SAFETY EVALUATION REPORT FOR INDIAN POINT NUCLEAR POWER PLANT LICENSE RENEWAL

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has issued its final safety evaluation report (SER) for the proposed renewal of the operating licenses for Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit numbers 2 and 3, and concluded that there are no open items that would preclude license renewal for an additional 20 years of operation.

The report documents the results of the NRC staff's review of the license renewal application and site audits of the plant's aging management programs to address the safety of plant operations during the period of extended operation. It represents the culmination of NRC's comprehensive review of the application and inspection of the plant to verify license renewal implementation is consistent with the application. Overall, the results show that the applicant has identified actions that have been or will be taken to manage the effects of aging in the appropriate systems, structures and components of the plant and that their functions will be maintained during the period of extended operation.

Issuing the final SER is a significant milestone in the license renewal review process. This process proceeds along two tracks – one for review of safety issues and another for environmental issues. The SER marks the completion of the NRC staff's safety review that is published and subsequently reviewed and publicly discussed by the agency's Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS). The staff is in the process of reviewing the environmental part of the Indian Point plant's license renewal application. That review must be completed before a final decision is made on the renewal.

The SER and the license renewal application have been provided to the ACRS, an independent body of experts that advises the Commission on reactor safety matters. The ACRS will discuss the SER during its Sept. meeting, details of which will be posted on the NRC Web site at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/acrs/agenda/2009/>. The ACRS will later issue a letter discussing the results of its review.

Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. submitted an application to the NRC in April 2007 to extend the Indian Point licenses by 20 years for each unit. The plant, operated by Entergy, is located in Buchanan (Westchester County), N.Y. The current 40-year operating licenses for Indian Point Units 2 and 3 are due to expire on Sept. 28, 2013 and Dec. 12, 2015, respectively.

In a letter dated Aug. 11, Brian Holian, the director of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation's Division of License Renewal, provided Entergy with the SER. The SER will be available on the NRC's Web site at:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/licensing/renewal/applications/indian-point.html>.

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