



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

December 23, 1991

Docket No. 50-286

Mr. Ralph E. Beedle
Executive Vice President-Nuclear Generation
Power Authority of the State of New York
123 Main Street
White Plains, New York 10601

Dear Mr. Beedle:

SUBJECT: SAFETY EVALUATION OF THE INDIAN POINT NUCLEAR GENERATING
UNIT NO. 3 RESPONSE TO THE STATION BLACKOUT RULE
(TAC NO. M68557)

On July 21, 1988, the Code of Federal Regulations, 10 CFR Part 50, was amended to include a new Section 50.63, entitled, "Loss of All Alternating Current Power," (Station Blackout). The Station Blackout (SBO) Rule requires that each light-water-cooled nuclear power plant be able to withstand and recover from an SBO of specified duration. The SBO Rule also requires that information defined in the rule be provided to the staff for review.

By letters dated April 17, 1989, and March 29, 1990, you submitted the Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit No. 3 response to the SBO Rule. In the response, you proposed using the Appendix R diesel generator as an alternate ac (AAC) power source. By letter dated August 19, 1991, you submitted additional information that was requested by our letter dated June 18, 1991. Your responses were reviewed by the staff and an NRC contractor, Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC). Enclosed is our Safety Evaluation (SE), which contains as an attachment, SAIC Technical Evaluation Report (TER) SAIC-91/6657.

The NRC staff has concluded that your response and proposed method of complying with the SBO Rule is acceptable with the following exception: The staff has determined the minimum required coping duration for the Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit No. 3 to be eight hours, not four hours as your response stated. The difference is due to your coping analysis calculating the electrical loads required to achieve and maintain a safe shutdown condition for an extended period of time as the loads required to achieve and maintain the hot shutdown condition. However, the staff requires that coping time analyses consider all loads required to achieve the cold shutdown condition. This methodology used to determine coping time was the methodology chosen by the staff to consistently determine the redundancy of onsite emergency ac power sources and does not imply that your facility's design basis safe shutdown is the cold shutdown condition. The staff realizes that your facility's design basis safe shutdown is the hot shutdown condition, therefore, to comply with the SBO Rule, the facility must be able to achieve and maintain the hot shutdown condition during an SBO event.

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Mr. Ralph E. Beedle

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The enclosed SE contains recommendations which should be implemented to ensure compliance with the SBO Rule. The recommendations are contained in SE sections; 2.3.3, 2.3.4, 2.3.4.1, 2.3.4.2, 2.3.5, 2.5, 2.6, and 2.7. Several of the recommendations are a result of the staff assuming an SBO coping time of eight hours while reviewing your submittal. Therefore, the NRC staff finds your proposed method of complying with the SBO Rule acceptable, contingent upon the satisfactory resolution of the recommendations presented in the SE. You are requested to submit, within 30 days of receipt of this letter, your proposed resolutions to the recommendations contained in the SE, including a schedule for resolution implementation, in accordance with 10 CFR 50.63(c)(4).

All analyses, confirmations, and other documentation supporting your SBO submittal should be maintained and be available for further NRC staff inspection. The NRC staff is considering Technical Specification (TS) requirements for SBO equipment. You will be notified of the implementation requirements if the staff later determines that TS changes are warranted. In the interim, the staff expects plant procedures to reflect appropriate testing and surveillance requirements to ensure the operability of SBO equipment.

The response requested by this letter affects one respondent and, therefore, is not subject to Office of Management and Budget review under P.L. 96-511.

Sincerely,



Nicola F. Conicella, Project Manager
Project Directorate I-1
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
Safety Evaluation

cc w/enclosure:
See next page

Mr. Ralph E. Beedle
Power Authority of the State
of New York

Indian Point Nuclear Generating Station
Unit No. 3

cc:

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