Indian Point 3
Nuclear Power Plant
P.O. Box 215
Buchanan, New York 10511
914 736.8001

NewYorkPower Authority

Robert J. Barrett
Site Executive Officer

February 23, 1998
IPN-98-019

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Document Control Desk
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Subject: Indian Point 3 Nuclear Power Plant
Docket No. 50-286
Response to NRC Generic Letter 97-05:
Steam Generator Tube Inspection Techniques

Reference: NRC Generic Letter 97-05, J.W. Roe, NRC to Operating Licensees, "Steam Generator Tube Inspection Techniques," dated December 17, 1997.

Dear Sir:

This letter provides the Indian Point 3 response on whether it is our practice to leave steam generator tubes with indications in service based on sizing, as requested by Referenced letter. Our response is provided in Attachment 1.

There are no commitments made by the Authority in this submittal. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ian Mew at (914) 287-3197.

Very truly yours,

Robert J. Barrett
Site Executive Officer
Indian Point 3 Nuclear Power Plant

A001
1/1

STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER
Subscribed and sworn to before me

this 23rd day of February 1998.

Barbara Ann Taggart
Notary Public

BARBARA ANN TAGGART
NOTARY PUBLIC, State of New York
No. 4851437
Qualified in Putnam County
Commission Expires Jan. 27, 2000

9803030287 980223
PDR ADOCK 05000286
P PDR

cc: Regional Administrator
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
475 Allendale Road
King of Prussia, PA 19406

Resident Inspectors' Office
Indian Point Unit 3
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
P.O. Box 337
Buchanan, NY 10511

Mr. George F. Wunder, Project Manager
Project Directorate I-1
Division of Reactor Projects I/II
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mail Stop 14 B2
Washington, DC 20555

Summary Description of Steam Generator Tube Inspection Techniques

Item (1) of GL 97-05 requires a response to:

(1) whether it is the licensee's practice to leave steam generator tubes with indications in service based on sizing.

Response:

The New York Power Authority's Indian Point 3 (IP3) steam generators, to-date, have been with no flaw-like indications and no active damage mechanism. Therefore, no tubes have been left in service with indications.

Indian Point 3 is a Westinghouse designed four (4) loop unit having Model 44F steam generators. These steam generators have 3214 tubes fabricated from Alloy 690 Thermally Treated Seamless Tubing, having a nominal wall thickness of 0.050 inches and an outside diameter of 0.875 inches. The tubes are full depth hydraulic expanded into the tubesheet and welded to the cladding on the primary side.

The IP3 technical specification permits us to leave tubes with indications of 40% through wall depth in service. However, to date, as previously stated, no tubes have been left in service with any flawlike indications and no active damage mechanisms have been detected in our steam generators.

At present, the Authority's policy is to plug or repair on detection any confirmed flawlike indications in the tubesheet expansion region (using rotating coil technology), primary water stress corrosion cracking (PWSCC) in the low rows' U-bends and any free span circumferential indications. All other degradation is evaluated against a 40% through wall repair limit. To plug or repair confirmed flawlike indications on detection is conservative but prudent since the probes and techniques used in previous inspections at Indian Point 3 were not qualified for sizing except for anti-vibration bar (AVB) wear. However, the Authority may elect to pursue other avenues as industry standards change or develop.

Item (2) of GL 97-05 reads:

(2) if the response to item (1) is affirmative, those licensees should submit a written report that includes, for each type of indication, a description of the associated nondestructive examination method being used and the technical basis for the acceptability of the technique used.

Response:

Not Applicable, based on the response to item (1).