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June 8, 1992

Re: Indian Point Unit No. 2
Docket No. 50-247

Document Control Desk
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mail Station P1-137
Washington, DC 20555

SUBJECT: Inoperable Reactor Coolant Pump No. 22 Smoke
Detectors

The purpose of this letter is to satisfy the requirement of Technical Specification 3.13.D.2.c to submit a special report outlining the cause of a malfunction of required fire detection instrumentation and the plans for restoring the instrumentation to operable status.

Section 3.13.D of the Technical Specifications requires that two smoke detectors per reactor coolant pump (RCP) be operable whenever the RCP is required to be operable. This requirement may be modified to allow less than the minimum number of detectors required to be operable provided that either a fire watch patrol is established to inspect the affected location(s) at least once per eight hours, or, the containment air temperature is monitored at least once per hour. If the minimum operable detectors required is not restored within 14 days, then the special report required by Technical Specification 3.13.D.2.c must be submitted within the next 30 days.

On April 12, 1989, one of three smoke detectors for RCP No. 22 failed to alarm during its periodic surveillance test and it was declared inoperable at that time. On April 23, 1992, a second smoke detector for RCP No. 22 began to alarm intermittently and was declared inoperable. The third and final smoke detector for RCP No. 22 also began to alarm intermittently on May 7, 1992. It was declared inoperable and hourly monitoring of containment air temperature was instituted. In the latter two instances, there were no abnormal indications of the parameters associated with RCP No. 22.

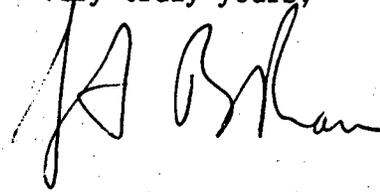
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Although the cause(s) of the problems with the smoke detectors is not presently known, it is planned to erect the scaffolding needed to access them in the next refueling outage. At that time, the specific reason(s) for the malfunctions will be determined and the instruments will be repaired. A problem in the past with RCP smoke detectors has been accumulation of dust/oil which creates a conductive path that results in intermittent alarms.

Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Mr. Charles W. Jackson, Manager, Nuclear Safety & Licensing.

Very truly yours,



cc: Mr. Thomas T. Martin
Regional Administrator - Region I
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