

123 Main Street  
White Plains, New York 10601  
914-681-6840  
914-287-3309 (FAX)



William J. Cahill, Jr.  
Chief Nuclear Officer

April 26, 1996  
IPN-96-051

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
ATTN: Document Control Desk  
Washington, DC 20555

SUBJECT: Indian Point 3 Nuclear Power Plant  
Docket No. 50-286  
License No. DPR-64  
**Proposed Technical Specification Change Regarding Reactor  
Coolant System Leakage Test At Normal Operating Pressure**

Dear Sir:

This application for amendment to the Indian Point 3 Technical Specifications proposes to amend Section 4.3 and the Basis of Appendix A of the Operating License. The proposed amendment would permit the Reactor Coolant System (RCS) leak test to be performed at normal operating pressure following each refueling outage in lieu of a hydrostatic test at 2335 psig, according to the requirements of the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code Section XI, and implemented in accordance with 10 CFR 50.55a(g).

The hydrostatic leak test of the RCS currently required by the Technical Specifications, following each normal opening and closure, could pose a challenge to plant safety, and adds critical path time at the end of each outage, without a compensating increase in the level of safety or quality. The proposed change would establish consistency with the ASME Code Section XI test requirements for the RCS boundary during each refueling outage. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission, through their approval of ASME Code Case N-498, recognizes the system leakage test as an effective demonstration of the leak-tightness of Class 1 systems, and a satisfactory alternative to the hydrostatic test.

Enclosed for filing is the signed original of a document entitled, "Application for Amendment to Operating License," together with Attachments I and II, comprising a statement of the proposed change to the Technical Specifications and the safety evaluation.

The commitments associated with this submittal are in Attachment III. The RCS leak test procedures will be revised within 60 days after approval of the proposed Amendment.

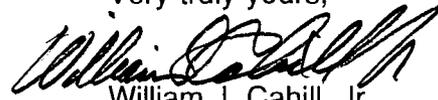
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In accordance with 10 CFR 50.91, a copy of this application and the associated attachments are being submitted to the designated New York State official.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Mr. K. Peters.

Very truly yours,



William J. Cahill, Jr.  
Chief Nuclear Officer

att: as stated

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

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

Mr. F. W. Valentino  
New York State Energy, Research, and  
Development Authority  
2 Rockefeller Plaza  
Albany, NY 12223

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