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New York Power Authority

William J. Cahill, Jr.
Chief Nuclear Officer

July 12, 1996
IPN-96-071

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

Subject: Indian Point 3 Nuclear Power Plant
Docket No. 50-286
Proposed Technical Specifications for a 100% Helium Release from the Boron Coating of the Integral Fuel Burnable Absorber Rods and a Reduction of Maximum Permissible Reactor Coolant System Average Temperature

Reference: NYPA letter (IPN-96-040), W. J. Cahill, Jr. to NRC, "Proposed Changes to Technical Specifications Regarding Departure from Nucleate Boiling Limits," dated March 29, 1996.

Dear Sir:

This application for amendment to the Indian Point 3 technical specifications includes changes associated with an assumption of a 100% helium release from the boron coating of the Integral Fuel Burnable Absorber (IFBA) rods. Specifically, the technical specification parameters affected by this application are the minimum reactor coolant system (RCS) flow and the maximum RCS average temperature (T_{avg}).

In order to facilitate review of this submittal, these changes are superimposed onto those submitted by the referenced letter which added requirements associated with Departure from Nucleate Boiling (DNB) limits. Therefore, the technical specification pages contained in Attachment 1 supersede those submitted by the referenced letter. The safety evaluation for the changes associated with the DNB limits, submitted as part of the referenced letter, is still valid and is not repeated in this application. The safety evaluation and no significant hazards determination presented in Attachment II specifically address the changes to T_{avg} and to the minimum RCS flow requirement. At the end of Cycle 9, the RCS minimum flow requirement proposed by this application will be changed for Cycle 10, and the remaining changes associated with T_{avg} and the DNB limits will remain in the technical specifications.

Attachment I contains the technical specification changes needed for the assumption of a 100% helium release from the IFBA rods. NRC approval of the changes is needed by October

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25, 1996 to support operation for Cycle 9 beyond 14,000 MWD/MTU. Presently, the RCS flow rate is greater than 385,400 gpm, even though the current technical specification flow rate of 332,240 gpm is valid until 14,000 MWD/MTU is reached in Cycle 9.

The Safety Evaluation for this amendment request is provided as Attachment II. The Authority's commitments associated with this application are presented in Attachment III. A copy of this application and the associated attachments are being submitted to the designated New York State official as required by 10 CFR 50.91. Since several outstanding technical specification proposals affect the technical specification pages contained in this amendment, please coordinate the issuance of these amendment pages and any other questions with Ms. C. Faison.

Very truly yours,

William J. Cahill, Jr.
Chief Nuclear Officer

attachments: As stated

enclosure: SECL-96-046, "IFBA Helium Release Evaluation For Cycle 9 Restart," Westinghouse Electric Corporation, dated July 8, 1996.

cc: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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