



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

October 28, 1998

50-286

Mr. James Knubel  
Chief Nuclear Officer  
Power Authority of the State  
of New York  
123 Main Street  
White Plains, NY 10601

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AMENDMENT TO TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS - INDIAN POINT  
NUCLEAR GENERATING UNIT NO. 3 (TAC NO. M96620)

Dear Mr. Knubel:

By letter dated September 6, 1996, as supplemented by letter dated June 6, 1997, you requested an amendment to the Indian Point Nuclear Generating unit No. 3 (IP3) Technical Specifications (TSs). The amendment would remove the requirement for the Plant Operating Review Committee (PORC) to review the fire protection program and implementing procedures.

On January 13, 1995, we issued Amendment No. 157 to the IP3 TSs. With Amendment No. 157 you relocated the fire protection TSs to the IP3 Operational Specifications Manual. In our safety evaluation for Amendment No. 157 we found the relocation of these TSs acceptable, in part, because you added TS 6.5.1.6.m calling for PORC review of the fire protection program.

In your September 6, 1996, and June 6, 1997, letters you justified the removal of PORC review the fire protection program and implementing procedures in part on Amendment No. 159 which shifted the review responsibility of nuclear safety-related procedures from the PORC to designated individuals and limited the PORC responsibilities to the review and approval of those procedures and procedure changes that are determined by these individuals to require a nuclear safety or an environmental impact evaluation. You proposed to extend this review and approval process for nuclear safety-related procedures and procedure changes to the fire protection program. Fire protection procedures and procedure changes, however, are not safety-related; therefore, nuclear safety-related evaluations do not apply to fire protection procedures and procedure changes.

The proposed deletion of PORC review of the fire protection program would remove specification 6.5.1.6.m added by Amendment No. 157. Since Amendment No. 157 was found acceptable, in part, because of the addition of TS 6.5.1.6.m, we cannot issue your amendment as requested.

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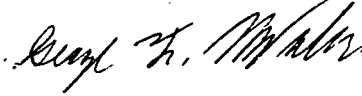
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J. Knubel

- 2 -

If you have any questions, the appropriate members of the technical staff and I will be happy to discuss this issue with you. You can reach me at (301) 415-1494. This completes the staff's efforts on TAC No. M96620.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "George F. Wunder". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "George" and last name "Wunder" clearly distinguishable.

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

Docket No. 50-286

cc: See next page

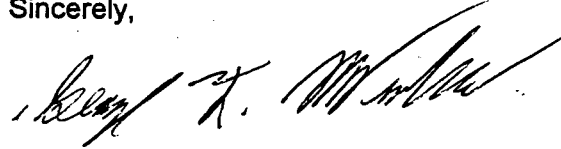
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Project Directorate 1-1  
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II  
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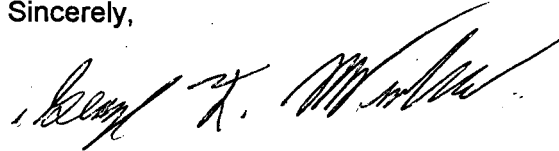
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James Knubel  
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of New York

Indian Point Nuclear Generating  
Unit No. 3

cc:

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