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Docket No. 50-286

Mr. Ralph E. Beedle
Executive Vice President - Nuclear Generation
New York Power Authority
123 Main Street
White Plains, New York 10601

Dear Mr. Beedle:

SUBJECT: NRC REGION I SPECIAL INSPECTION TEAM 50-286/93-80

An NRC team, led by Mr. Wayne Lanning, conducted a special inspection on April 26 through May 28, 1993, at your Indian Point Unit 3 Nuclear Power Plant, in Buchanan, New York, and at your corporate offices in White Plains, New York. After this inspection on June 1, 1993, we discussed the preliminary findings with you and members of your staff at an exit meeting that was open for public observation. This letter forwards the special inspection team report.

The three principal objectives of this inspection were (1) to assess your identification and evaluation of root causes for the declining performance, (2) to assess how effectively you identified and corrected problems, and (3) to identify restart issues other than those you had already identified that must be corrected before Unit 3 is restarted. The team did not review recent corrective actions for the restart issues you had identified in the Performance Improvement Program for Unit 3 and did not assess plant readiness for restart.

The team determined that the root causes for the declining performance of Indian Point Unit 3 were weak managerial processes, controls and skills. Specifically, the team found that: the corrective action process was ineffective in identifying and resolving problems; that deficiencies existed in the commitment tracking system that resulted in several missed commitments for the fire protection/Appendix R program; that many plant organizations had weak and missing procedures; that backlogs in the areas of maintenance, engineering, technical services, quality assurance, and in the operating experience program had not been adequately controlled and evaluated for safety significance; that the emergency diesel generator had not received the required preventative maintenance because vendor recommendations had not been incorporated into the program; that several major changes in the organization and changes in major programs had not been managed well; that the planning, scheduling and work control process was ineffective; that communications among organizations and within organizations were poor; and that there was a general lack of accountability in the NYPA organization.

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Mr. Ralph E. Beedle

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The team identified two contributing causes for the continuing performance decline at Indian Point Unit 3. First, NYPA failed to identify and resolve underlying root causes for problems that had been identified by the QA organization. Programmatic weaknesses were not corrected, and deficiencies recurred. Second, NYPA did not have an effective self-assessment process because the function was fragmented and selectively applied, and the onsite and offsite oversight committees were narrowly focused. It is this process, properly implemented, that could have identified the management and organizational problems that the team identified.

The team identified 10 significant issues that require NYPA attention before plant restart. These issues are in addition to, or a modification of, those identified in your Performance Improvement Program and by the NRC NYPA Assessment Panel. The 10 issues involved deficiencies in processes, programs, plant safety equipment, and procedures. We request that you review the findings from this inspection, including their broader implications, to ensure that your Performance Improvement Program is sufficiently comprehensive.

After you assess these items, please contact NRC Region I to schedule a meeting to agree on a list of issues to be resolved before restart. Should you have any questions concerning this inspection, or the restart issues, please contact Mr. Wayne Lanning (215/337-5126). In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790, a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:
Thomas T. Martin

Thomas T. Martin
Regional Administrator

Enclosure: NRC Region I Inspection Report No. 50-286/93-80

Mr. Ralph E. Beedle

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cc w/encl:

R. Schoenberger, President

J. Garrity, Resident Manager

W. Josiger, Vice President - Nuclear Operations

G. Goldstein, Assistant General Counsel

P. Kokolakis, Director, Nuclear Licensing - PWR

G. Begany, Mayor, Village of Buchanan

C. Jackson, Nuclear Safety and Licensing Manager (Con Ed)

C. Donaldson, Esquire, Assistant Attorney General, New York Department of Law

R. Braatz, District Representative, NYS Senate

Chairman, Standing Committee on Energy, NYS Assembly

Chairman, Standing Committee on Environmental Conservation, NYS Assembly

Executive Chair, Four County Nuclear Safety Committee

Director, Energy & Water Division, Department of Public Service, State of New York

J. Blau, Director, Utility Intervention New York State Consumer Protection Bureau

The Honorable Hamilton Fish, Jr.

K. Abraham, PAO (2)

Public Document Room (PDR)

Local Public Document Room (LPDR)

Nuclear Safety Information Center (NSIC)

NRC Resident Inspector

State of New York, SLO Designee

Mr. Ralph E. Beedle

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bcc w/encl:
Region I Docket Room (with concurrences)

bcc (VIA E-MAIL)
V. McCree, OEDO
R. Capra, NRR
N. Conicella, NRR
J. Taylor, OEDO
T. Murley, NRR
J. Calvo, NRR
J. Partlow, NRR

RI:DRP

W. Lanning

07/10/93

RI:RA

T. Martin

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