

DCJ

JAN 8 1991

Docket No. 50-286

New York Power Authority
Indian Point 3 Nuclear Power Plant
ATTN: Mr. Joseph Russell
Resident Manager
P.O. Box 215
Buchanan, New York 10511

Gentlemen:

Subject: NRC Region I Augmented Inspection Team Inspection (50-286/90-80)

This letter refers to an Augmented Inspection Team (AIT) inspection headed by Mr. P. W. Eselgroth of this office October 24 through November 16, 1990 at the Indian Point 3 Nuclear facility in Buchanan, New York. This inspection focused on ascertaining the relevant facts and probable cause(s) and evaluating your analysis and proposed corrective actions for the October 4, 1990 event involving the two fuel assemblies that were inadvertently lifted out of the core with the reactor upper internals. At the conclusion of the inspection, an exit interview was held with you and members of your staff to discuss the inspection findings.

Areas examined during this inspection are described in the NRC Region I inspection report which is enclosed with this letter. Within these areas, the inspection consisted of detailed examinations of procedures and analyses associated with this fuel assembly handling event, interviews with personnel and observations by the inspectors.

The AIT concluded that the inadvertent lifting of fuel assemblies out of the core on October 4, 1990 and the associated inadvertent operation with damaged fuel assemblies during fuel cycle 7 was due to fuel assembly upper guide pin damage sustained during refueling operations conducted in May 1989. The AIT also concluded that the cause of this equipment damage and subsequent plant operation with these unresolved conditions was inadequate management control of refueling operations.

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Potential violations associated with the findings of this inspection report will be the subject of separate correspondence.

No reply to this letter is required. Your cooperation with us in this matter is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Marvin W. Hodges, Director
Division of Reactor Safety

Enclosure: NRC Region I Augmented Inspection Team Inspection
Report No. 50-286/90-80

cc w/encl:

J. Bayne, President
J. Brons, Executive Vice President - Nuclear Generation
G. Goldstein, Assistant General Counsel
A. Klausmann, Senior Vice President, Appraisal and Compliance Services
G. Wilverding, Manager, Nuclear Safety Evaluation
C. Jackson, Manager, Regulatory Affairs
R. Beedle, Vice President Nuclear Support
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S. Zulla, Vice President Nuclear Engineering
P. Kokolakis, Director Nuclear Licensing - PWR
D. Halama, Quality Assurance Superintendent
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Dept. of Public Service, State of New York
State of New York, Department of Law
Public Document Room (PDR)
Local Public Document Room (LPDR)
Nuclear Safety Information Center (NSIC)
K. Abraham, PAO (27) SALP Reports and (2) All Inspection Reports
NRC Resident Inspector
State of New York, SLO Designee

bcc w/encl:

Region I Docket Room (with concurrences)

Management Assistant, DRMA (w/o encl)

R. Bellamy, DRSS

J. Linville, DRP

M. Miller, DRP

D. Vito, DRP

G. Meyer, DRP

J. Caldwell, EDO

R. Fraley, ACRS

J. Neighbors, NRR

R. Capra, NRR

P. Gwynn, RIV

T. Martin, RI

W. Kane, RI

C. Hehl, RI

M. Knapp, RI

F. Grubelich, NRR

J. Prell, RI

P. Wen, NRR

S. Wu, NRR

M. Hodges, DRS

L. Bettenhausen, DRS

P. Eselgroth, DRS

DRS Files (3)

RI:DRS

Eselgroth

ES

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Bettenhausen

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Hodges

MH

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