

March 18, 1997

Mr. Robert J. Barrett  
Site Executive Officer  
New York Power Authority  
Indian Point 3 Nuclear Power Plant  
Post Office Box 215  
Buchanan, NY 10511

SUBJECT: NRC INTEGRATED INSPECTION REPORT 50-286/96-12  
AND NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Dear Mr. Barrett:

On February 16, 1997, the NRC completed an inspection at your Indian Point 3 reactor facility. The enclosed report presents the results of that inspection.

During the seven-week period covered by this inspection, you conducted activities at the Indian Point 3 reactor facility safely and conservatively. Your performance during this inspection period demonstrated the effectiveness of your organization in operating the plant and conducting maintenance during an extended forced outage. We considered the scope of work during the outage to be appropriate, the performance of certain surveillance tests to be conservative, and plant maneuvers to be well controlled.

Notwithstanding these improvements in overall performance, we noted continuing weaknesses in the work control process and the protective tagging process. Informality in these processes was indicated by procedural non-compliances regarding the release of work and other work control aspects, the lack of procedural guidance associated with the operations/work control feedback process, and the lack of corrective actions in response to the feedback from the field support supervisors. This is of particular concern to us because of the recurrence of work control and protective tagout problems, as documented in previous NRC inspection reports. The procedure non-compliances and the lack of corrective actions to feedback from the field support supervisors constituted violations of NRC requirements. Separately, a violation was identified for failing to install a radiation monitoring system in the new fuel storage areas capable of alarming should accidental criticality occur.

These violations are cited in the enclosed Notice of Violation, and the circumstances surrounding the violations are described in detail in the enclosed report. Please note that you are required to respond to this letter and should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice when preparing your response. The NRC will use your response, in part, to determine whether further enforcement action is necessary to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements.

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In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room (PDR).

Sincerely,

Original Signed by:

Curtis J. Cowgill, Chief  
Projects Branch 2  
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket No. 50-286  
License No. DPR-64

Enclosures:

1. Notice of Violation
2. Inspection Report No. 50-286/96-12

cc w/encls:

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Chairman, Committee on Corporations, Authorities, and Commissions  
The Honorable Sandra Galef, NYS Assembly  
P. D. Eddy, Director, Electric Division, Department of Public Service, State of New York  
G. T. Goering, Consultant, New York Power Authority  
J. E. Gagliardo, Consultant, New York Power Authority  
E. S. Beckjord, Consultant, New York Power Authority  
F. William Valentino, President, New York State Energy Research  
and Development Authority  
J. Spath, Program Director, New York State Energy Research  
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