

July 15, 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 50-286/97-04

Dear Mr. Barrett:

On June 30, 1997, the NRC completed an inspection at your Indian Point 3 reactor facility. The enclosed report presents the results of that inspection.

During the six-week period covered by this inspection, you conducted activities at the Indian Point 3 reactor facility safely and conservatively. During the current refueling outage, we noted several challenges to the plant and your staff from events and the large number of ongoing work activities. Overall, your staff met these challenges well. During the loss of 138 kilovolt offsite power on June 16, 1997, your staff's response was good and the consequences of the event were minimal due, in part, to the effective defense-in-depth contingency plans and outage risk management processes that were in place. Also, the refueling crew's actions to an anomalous indication with the fuel transfer system were excellent; their actions averted a potentially more significant event.

While we acknowledge your good efforts to reduce human performance errors and assure proper control of activities, your continued aggressive oversight and efforts are needed to assure that the refueling outage is completed safely. In particular, the ongoing development of corrective actions to the loss of 138 kilovolt offsite power must address switchyard controls, particularly for the equipment within the scope of the maintenance rule. Also, lessons from problems that arise must be aggressively incorporated to avoid recurrence. For example, we noted an activity involving the backseating of the 31 reactor coolant pump, in which communications and coordination were weak and resulted in draining of reactor coolant system inventory.

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

Sincerely,

Original Signed by:

John F. Rogge, Chief
Projects Branch 2
Division of Reactor Projects



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

Enclosure: Inspection Report No. 50-286/97-04

cc w/encl:

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H. P. Salmon, Jr., Vice President of Nuclear Operations
W. Josiger, Vice President - Engineering and Project Management
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T. Dougherty, Director - Nuclear Engineering
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R. Patch, Director - Quality Assurance
G. C. Goldstein, Assistant General Counsel
C. D. Faison, Director, Nuclear Licensing, NYPA
K. Peters, Licensing Manager
A. Donahue, Mayor, Village of Buchanan
C. W. Jackson, Nuclear Safety and Licensing Manager (Con Ed)
C. Donaldson, Esquire, Assistant Attorney General, New York Department of Law
Chairman, Standing Committee on Energy, NYS Assembly
Chairman, Standing Committee on Environmental Conservation, NYS Assembly
T. Morra, Executive Chair, Four County Nuclear Safety Committee
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
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