

March 30, 1998

JCP

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: INDIAN POINT 3 SPECIAL INSPECTION REPORT 50-286/97-81 AND NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Dear Mr. Barrett:

This letter refers to the special safety inspection conducted from December 19, 1997, through January 16, 1998, at the Indian Point 3 Power Plant, Buchanan, New York, and from March 10 to 13, 1998, in the Region I office. The purpose of the inspection was to determine whether activities in response to an event of December 18, 1997, were conducted safely, and in accordance with NRC requirements. The event was a failure to open of the 32 residual heat removal (RHR) pump breaker (type DS-416) to disconnect the pump from its associated 480-volt emergency bus after the completion of a surveillance test. On December 23, 1997, and January 13, 1998, the preliminary findings were discussed with you. Later, on March 10 and 13, 1998, the violation in the attached notice was discussed with you.

The NRC found your review of this event generally effective. While your review did not identify the root causes of the breaker failure, proximate causes were uncovered and appropriately acted upon.

Based on the results of this inspection, the NRC has determined that a violation of NRC requirements occurred. The violation is cited in the enclosed Notice of Violation (Notice) and the circumstances surrounding it are described in the report. The violation involves a failure to adequately review events in the switchgear room on December 18, 1997. Your staff damaged the safety-related 32 residual heat removal pump breaker while trying to manually open the breaker. 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.

7
JCP

Further, on March 9, 1998, Region I referred the failure to follow electrical safety procedures to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Tarrytown, NY, in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding between NRC and OSHA, dated October 21, 1988. Additional details are addressed in section I.O1.1 of the enclosed report.

9804080233 980330
PDR ADOCK 05000286
G PDR

R. Barrett

2

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosures will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room (PDR). To the extent possible, your response should not include and personal privacy, proprietary, or safeguards information so that it can be placed in the PDR without redaction.

The responses directed by this letter and the enclosed Notice are not subject to the clearance procedures of the Office of Management and Budget as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, Pub. L. No. 96.511.

Your cooperation with us is appreciated.

Sincerely,

James T. Wiggins, Director
Division of Reactor Safety

Enclosure: Region I Special Inspection Report 50-286/97-81

Docket No. 50-286

R. Barrett

3

cc w/encl:

C. D. Rappleyea, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
E. Zeltmann, President and Chief Operating Officer
R. Hiney, Executive Vice President for Project Operations
J. Knubel, Chief Nuclear Officer and Senior Vice President
H. P. Salmon, Jr., Vice President of Engineering
W. Josiger, Vice President - Engineering and Project Management
J. Kelly, Director - Regulatory Affairs and Special Projects
T. Dougherty, Director - Nuclear Engineering
R. Deasy, Vice President - Appraisal and Compliance Services
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, 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
and Development Authority

Mr. Robert J. Barrett

4

Distribution w/encl:

H. Miller, RA/W. Axelson, DRA
Region I Docket Room (with concurrences)
Nuclear Safety Information Center (NSIC)
PUBLIC
NRC Resident Inspector
J. Rogge, DRP
R. Barkley, DRP
R. Junod, DRP
C. Miskey, DRS

Distribution w/encl: (VIA E-MAIL)

B. McCabe, RI EDO Coordinator
S. Bajwa, NRR
G. Wunder, NRR
J. Harold, NRR
D. Screnci, PAO
M. Campion, RI
Inspection Program Branch, NRR (IPAS)
R. Borchart, Chief Inspection Program Branch, NRR (OSHA Referral)
R. Correia, NRR
F. Talbot, NRR
DOCDESK

10248/Conte
DOCUMENT NAME: G:\IP39781.INS

To receive a copy of this document, indicate in the box: "C" = Copy without attachment/enclosure "E" = Copy with attachment/enclosure "N" = No copy

OFFICE	RI/DRS	RI/DRS	RI/DRP	RI/DRS		
	RConte <i>[Signature]</i>	WRuland <i>[Signature]</i>	JRogge <i>[Signature]</i>	JWiggins <i>[Signature]</i>		
DATE	03/12/98 <i>3/12/98</i>	03/12/98	03/11/98	03/30/98	03/ /98	

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

[Handwritten signature]
3/18/98