

June 23, 1998

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: INSPECTION REPORT NO. 50-286/97-81 - REPLY

Dear Mr. Barrett,

This refers to your April 28, 1998, correspondence in response to our letter, dated March 30, 1998, regarding Indian Point Unit 3. Your correspondence dealt with your failure to completely review an event of December 18, 1997 in which the No. 32 Residual Heat Removal Pump breaker failed to open. Specifically, you failed to thoroughly review needed actions to protect personnel and equipment (perceived by your staff) during a non-emergency situation and these actions were not specifically addressed in abnormal or emergency response procedures. We have reviewed this matter in accordance with NRC Inspection Manual Procedure 92901, "Plant Operations."

Your corrective actions are focused on post event review and appear to be adequate in this regard pending further inspection. We concur with your assessment of the root cause being inadequate written instructions and poor work practices with respect to assuring an adequate review of such actions taken during an event.

However your response did not address additional control measures including level of review prior to needed actions to protect personnel and equipment during non-emergency situations and when actions are not specifically addressed in existing abnormal or emergency procedures. Your general measures (embodied in a standing order) were apparently ineffective since actual performance was poorly controlled (e.g. use of broom handle to attempt to open the breaker.) Although not required, you may respond to this letter on this issue. Nonetheless, we are referring this matter to the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR), Human Factors Branch for review (contact R. Eckenrode at (301) 415-3172). We will contact after this review or if NRR needs additional information.

If you have any comments or questions on this matter, please contact me at (610) 337-6183.

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PDR ADDCK 05000286
G PDR

Mr. Robert J. Barrett

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We appreciate your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Conte, Chief
Operator Licensing and
Human Performance Branch
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket No(s). 50-286

cc w/encl:

C. D. Rappleyea, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
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H. P. Salmon, Jr., Vice President of Engineering
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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
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Mr. Robert J. Barrett

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Indian Point 3
Nuclear Power Plant
P.O. Box 215
Buchanan, New York 10511
914 736 6001



Robert J. Barrett
Site Executive Officer

April 28, 1998
IPN-98-047

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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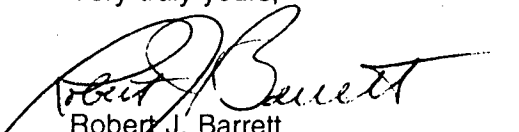
SUBJECT: Indian Point 3 Nuclear Power Plant
Docket No. 50-286
License No. DPR-64
Reply to Notice of Violation 50-286/97-81-01

Dear Sir:

This letter provides, in Attachment I, the New York Power Authority's response to the Notice of Violation contained in NRC Special Inspection Report 50-286/97-81.

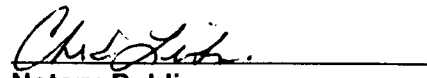
The Authority is making no new commitments in this letter. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ken Peters at (914) 736-8029.

Very truly yours,


Robert J. Barrett
Site Executive Officer
Indian Point 3 Nuclear Power Plant

STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER
Subscribed and sworn to before me

this 28th day of APRIL 1998.


Notary Public

CHRISTINA LEITMANN
Notary Public, State of New York
No. 01LE5070948
Qualified in Putnam County
Commission Expires January 6, 1999

cc: See next page

4-28-98

Attachment I Reply to Notice of Violation 50-286/97-81-01

cc: Mr. Hubert J. Miller
Regional Administrator
Region I
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
475 Allendale Road
King of Prussia, Pennsylvania 19406-1415

Resident Inspector's Office
Indian Point Unit 3
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
P.O. Box 337
Buchanan, NY 10511

Reply to Notice of Violation 50-286/97-81-01

During an NRC inspection conducted between December 19, 1997, and January 16, 1998, and March 10 through 13, 1998, a violation of NRC requirements was identified. The violation and the Authority's response are as follows:

Violation (VIO 286/97-81-01)

10 CFR Part 50, Criterion XVI, "Corrective Action," requires in part, that measures shall be established to assure that conditions adverse to quality, such as deficiencies, deviations, and nonconformances are promptly identified and corrected.

Contrary to the above, measures were not established to assure deviations are promptly identified and corrected, in that, between December 18, 1997, and March 13, 1998, the licensee had not established procedures to review, and had not reviewed for deficiencies, infrequent personnel actions in the switchgear room on December 18, 1997, that were conducted without a procedure and caused minor equipment damage. These actions in the switchgear room resulted in minor damage to the breaker.

This is a Severity Level IV violation (Supplement I).

Response to Violation VIO 286/97-81-01

The New York Power Authority agrees with this violation.

Reason for Violation VIO 286/97-81-01

The reasons the actions performed on the breaker under Standing Order 95-07 were not recorded and assessed were inadequate written instructions and poor work practices. The operating guidance used during this event was Standing Order 95-07. Standing Order 95-07 does not require reviewing the appropriateness of actions taken for which no procedure was used. Administrative Procedure AP-21.2, "Post Transient Evaluation," includes the requirement to evaluate events and to assess operator performance during events. Procedure AP-21.2 references procedure AP-8, "Deviation Event Reporting and Operability Determination Manual," for event analysis and contains a specific section for personnel performance issues. The post transient report for this event determined that there were no personnel performance issues that required further evaluation.

Poor work practices were also a reason for this violation. Personnel failed to document minor damage to the 32 RHR breaker and supervisor performance because their review was focused on equipment performance. Personnel were focused on trying to improve the condition of the plant and their mindset obscured the requirement to document all deviations.

Reply to Notice of Violation 50-286/97-81-01

Corrective Actions Taken and Results Achieved

- Actions resulting from use of Standing Order 95-07 were assessed and included in the Root Cause Analysis/Equipment Failure Evaluation report for the failed breaker event. The assessment identified the inappropriate actions, their causes, and corrective actions.
- Standing Order 95-07 has been revised to require that a Deviation Event Report be initiated for actions taken under this standing order.
- Procedure AP-21.2, "Post Transient Evaluation," was revised to question if operator actions were taken outside established procedures.

Corrective Actions to be Taken

The corrective actions taken are expected to prevent recurrence.

Date When Full Compliance Was Achieved

Compliance regarding establishing procedures to review use of the standing order guidance was achieved on April 24, 1998, when Standing Order 95-07 was revised. Compliance concerning the review of minor damage to the 32 RHR pump breaker and electrical safety issues was achieved on February 23, 1998, when the Root Cause Analysis/Equipment Failure Evaluation report that assessed the failed breaker event was approved by engineering.