

JUNE 15, 1998

EA 98-284  
EA 98-285

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 INSPECTION REPORT 50-286/98-81 AND NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Dear Mr. Barrett:

This refers to the NRC Engineering Team Inspection that was conducted at Indian Point Unit 3 for two weeks during the period of April 6 to April 24, 1998. The primary objective of the inspection was to determine whether engineering activities were providing for safe and proper conduct of plant operation. The inspection also included evaluation of the effectiveness of the plant staff in identifying problems, finding the causes of problems, and completion of effective, timely corrective actions. The enclosed report presents the results of this inspection; preliminary results had been provided to you and Mr. Harry Salmon at an exit meeting held at the Unit 3 site on May 1, 1998.

The team judged the engineering activities at IP-3 to be generally good and to have improved from the weak performance of years prior. The engineering methods and results were generally sound and correct, and engineering backlogs have been reduced. The team's extensive review found problems, but the frequency, nature, and significance of the problems were diminished when compared to prior engineering performance. For example, oversights and errors had resulted in improper engineering actions associated with control room habitability analyses and a change to specified flow in an emergency operating procedure (EOP) change. Nonetheless, the overall performance improvement has been slow and has been marked by recurrent problems related to engineering. We remain concerned regarding the effectiveness and timeliness of corrective actions and believe that continued management attention is warranted.

The NRC identified six violations of NRC requirements regarding engineering activities associated with control room habitability and a change to an emergency operating procedure. These violations are cited in the enclosed Notices of Violation, and the circumstances surrounding each violation is 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, its enclosures, and your response will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room (PDR). To the extent possible, your response should not include any personal privacy, proprietary, or safeguards information so that it can be placed in the PDR without redaction.

The response 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.

Should you have any questions concerning this inspection, please contact the team leader Mr. Harold Gray at (610) 337-5325.

We appreciate your cooperation.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

James T. Wiggins, Director  
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket Nos.: 50-286

License Nos: DPR-64

Enclosures: NRC Inspection Report 50-286/98-81

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  
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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

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