

February 25, 1999

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 50-286/98-10

Dear Mr. Barrett:

On February 10, 1999, 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 with an appropriate focus on safe plant operations. We noted excellent performance in the area of radiation protection, in which you continue to put emphasis on improvements. Particularly noteworthy were the continued good implementation of the "as low as is reasonably achievable" program to minimize personnel exposure control and your efforts to reduce the number of contaminated areas and radiological challenges to plant personnel.

However, we noted several instances of weak performance in other plant activities. Although these instances are individually not safety significant, we are concerned that cumulatively these issues reflect a lack of thoroughness by your staff to question and identify equipment anomalies. Examples included the failure to promptly identify and correct a degrading condition associated with the control room ventilation system, a missed opportunity to identify an improper shim installed in a charging system piping support, and a lack of questioning of the leak tight integrity of pneumatic components in the control room ventilation system. In addition, we noted poor work planning associated with the preventive maintenance on 32 AC distribution power panel, in which weak performance standards and expectations resulted in unnecessary challenges to operations and unexpected plant equipment responses.

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). Should you have any questions regarding this report, please contact me at 610-337-5146.

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. 50-286/98-10

cc w/encl:

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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
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E. S. Beckjord, Consultant, New York Power Authority
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Robert J. Barrett

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