

September 13, 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 50-286/99-05

Dear Mr. Barrett:

On August 1, 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. However, we continue to be concerned about the quality of engineering support to the operation of the facility. During the current inspection, we noted three examples of ineffective engineering support to operations. First, the implementation of a containment isolation valve test modification resulted in a direct release path from the containment building to the primary auxiliary building. Secondly, a control room indicator for residual heat removal flow was inappropriately dispositioned as operable. Lastly, operators were repeatedly challenged by deficiencies associated with the heater drain system. Specifically, a degraded check valve that had the potential to cause a secondary plant transient was not effectively communicated to operators prior to performing heater drain system manipulations. Previous NRC inspection reports have also discussed concerns with engineering support in resolving equipment deficiencies.

Based on the results of this inspection, the NRC determined that two Severity Level IV violations of NRC requirements occurred. These violations are being treated as a Non-Cited Violations (NCVs), consistent with Appendix C of the Enforcement Policy. The NCVs regarding the failure to promptly correct a degraded control room indicator and inadequate test controls which lead to a breach of containment integrity are described in the subject inspection report. If you contest these non-cited violations or the severity level of these NCVs, you should provide a response within 30 days of the date of this inspection report, with the basis for your denial to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, ATTN: Document Control Desk, Washington DC 20555-0001; with copies to the Regional Administrator, Region I; and the Director, Office of Enforcement, United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001; and the NRC Resident Inspector at the Indian Point 3 facility.

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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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John F. Rogge".

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

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

Enclosure: Inspection Report No. 50-286/99-05

cc w/encl:

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Chairman, Standing Committee on Environmental Conservation, NYS Assembly
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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
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E. S. Beckjord, Consultant, New York Power Authority
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J. Spath, Program Director, New York State Energy Research
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