



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION I
475 ALLENDALE ROAD
KING OF PRUSSIA, PA 19406-1415**

March 3, 2010

Mr. Thomas Gurdziel
9 Twin Orchard Drive
Oswego, NY 13126

Dear Mr. Gurdziel:

This letter is our response to your letter dated January 7, 2010, addressed to Mr. Bill Borchardt, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Executive Director of Operations. In your letter, which you stated was a "2.206 letter," you questioned the validity of NRC Inspection Report documentation regarding a 2006 test of the Indian Point Energy Center (IPEC) siren system and expressed a concern regarding corrective actions taken for "local radio frequency interference." As discussed in the NRC's letter to you dated February 16, 2010, the NRC Petition Review Board determined that your January 7, 2010, letter did not meet the criteria for consideration under 10 CFR 2.206. In our letter, we stated that Region I would respond to the concerns stated in your January 7th letter regarding IPEC alert and notification system (ANS) siren tests.

We have reviewed our inspection results of the March 2006 ANS tests and have concluded the inspection was properly conducted and reported. The test results documented in Inspection Report 05000286/2006002 were for tests of the previous Matrikon ANS, which was replaced as the primary ANS for IPEC in August 2008. The March 8, 2006, test was observed by the Region I Senior Emergency Preparedness Specialist. During the test, the siren feedback system computer server stopped operating, preventing confirmation that all individual sirens operated properly during the test. After 138 sirens reported successful activation, the siren system response was suspect of errors, and Entergy declared the ANS inoperable and out-of-service. Entergy initially believed that the results of the siren test were not valid due to this problem. Subsequently, Entergy identified a problem with the feedback system hard drive and database compiler, and concluded that the initial 138 siren test results had been accurately compiled by the siren feedback system computer prior to the computer problem, and the initial test results were in fact valid. During follow-up inspection, the inspector determined that Entergy had properly calculated the March 8, 2006, test results. The inspector verified that the successful operation of 138 out of 156 sirens was the proper number for Entergy to report to the NRC as part of the performance indicator (PI) process. The inspector also verified that the March 8th test problems were placed in the licensee's corrective action process and that adequate steps were taken to repair the existing ANS. The March 15, 2006, siren test documented in the same inspection report was conducted to confirm the adequacy of those corrective actions. The results of the March 15th test were not included as PI data, as that test was not scheduled and designated ahead of time as a PI test.

Your letter also mentioned a concern with our description of "local radio frequency interference" as a cause of the problems with the IPEC ANS. The replacement ANS at IPEC was designed to overcome radio frequency interference problems. This system uses four transmission towers to better communicate with each other and the siren pole locations, and the system uses a cell

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phone-Internet protocol to activate the sirens separately from the radio activation system. Entergy has identified the root cause of the problems seen in the December 2009 full-volume test and determined the cause did not involve local radio frequency interference. Entergy has taken corrective actions for that failure, and Region I has an inspection scheduled to evaluate that root cause determination and the adequacy of Entergy's corrective actions.

Thank you for your active interest in our activities to protect the public health and safety. If you have any further questions concerning this matter, please contact either me (phone: 610-337-5186; email: james.trapp@nrc.gov) or the Region I Senior Emergency Preparedness Specialist, Steve Barr (phone: 610-337-5316; email: steve.barr@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,



James M. Trapp, Chief
Plant Support Branch 1
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket Nos. 50-247 and 50-286

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Sincerely,

/RA/

James M. Trapp, Chief
Plant Support Branch 1
Division of Reactor Safety

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