



Entergy Nuclear Northeast
Indian Point Energy Center
450 Broadway, GSB
P.O. Box 249
Buchanan, N.Y. 10511-0249
Tel (914) 734-6710

Robert Walpole
Manager Licensing
Tel (914) 734-6710

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U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Subject: **Indian Point Energy Center Installation of Plant Integrated Computer System (PICS) in Unit 3 Simulation Facility Prior to Installation in the Unit 3 Nuclear Power Plant Control Room**

Indian Point, Unit 3
Docket No. 50-286
License No. DPR-64

Dear Sir or Madam;

The purpose of this letter is to notify the NRC of Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. (Entergy) revision to the Indian Point Energy Center (IPEC) Unit 3 plant Simulation Facility prior to installation of the modification for the Plant Integrated Computer System (PICS) into the Unit 3 plant Control Room.

An IPEC Engineering Change will replace the existing IPEC Unit 3 plant process computer, also known as the Critical Function Monitoring System (CFMS), with a new updated Plant Integrated Computer System (PICS) in the plant-reference simulator prior to this Engineering Change being installed in the Unit 3 plant. The primary reason for the replacement is equipment obsolescence, including outdated hardware and software. The primary function of the plant computer is to aid the operator in acquiring plant data and presenting it to the operator in a useful and meaningful way.

The new Unit 3 computer processors will be located in the Unit 2 Computer Room which will become the Computer Room for both Unit 2 and Unit 3 Plant Computers. The new Unit 3 plant process computer workstations will be located in the Unit 3 Control Room (same locations as the existing CFMS workstations).

10 CFR 55.45(13)(b)(1) requires that the operating test will be administered in a plant walkthrough and in either a simulation facility that the Commission has approved for use after application has been made by the facility licensee under 55.46(b) or a plant-referenced simulator (55.46(c)). Under 10 CFR 55.46(c)(1)(i) plant-referenced simulators must be sufficient in scope and fidelity to allow conduct of the evolutions listed in 55.45(a)(1) through (13) and applicable to the design of the reference plant, and (c)(2)(ii) Facility licensees that propose to use a plant-referenced simulator to meet the control manipulation requirements must ensure that Simulator fidelity has been demonstrated so the significant control manipulations are completed without procedural exceptions, simulator performance exceptions, or deviation from the approved training scenario sequence.

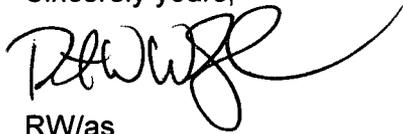
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Entergy elected to install the Unit 3 PICS System in the plant Simulator prior to installation in the plant to facilitate testing, training, and human factors considerations in the Simulator before the Operators would be called upon to use the system in the plant. The decision to install the PICS System in the Simulator prior to the plant was to have the PICS installation in the Simulator complete so the Operators have a chance to become familiar with the system before it is installed in the plant. As the existing plant computer and the new PICS computer can not be run simultaneously, there would be no time for the Operators to learn the new computer system in an on-the-job setting. Installing the new PICS computer in the Simulator will allow time for the Operators to become familiar with and learn the new computer system before required use in the plant. This will allow training for the Operators during the last quarter of 2010 and the first cycle in 2011 will be available for Operator simulator evaluations to verify the Operators were comfortable with the system in a transient / stress environment.

The installation of PICS in the Simulator prior to the plant will occur during the cycle of Licensed Operator Requalification training immediately following the Annual Operating Exams being administered for Unit 3 with the exception of the pilot team. The pilot team was rescheduled due to the Unit 2 and 3 forced outages and will be examined after Unit 3 PICS is installed in the Simulator. In order to accommodate this, the warranty load, which is the previous training load without PICS will be used to examine the pilot team. The next Annual Operating Exams on Unit 3 are scheduled well after PICS being installed in both the plant and Simulator.

Entergy is making no new commitments in this letter. Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Mr. John Ferrick, Manager Training and Development, at Indian Point Energy Center at (914) 788-2611.

Sincerely yours,



RW/as

cc: NRC Resident Inspector's Office
Mr. John Boska, Senior Project Manager, NRC NRR DORL
Mr. William M. Dean, Regional Administrator, NRC Region 1
Mr. Francis J. Murray, Jr., President and CEO, NYSERDA
Mr. Paul Eddy, New York State Dept. of Public Service
Mr. Larry Vick, NRC NRR DIRS IOLB