

**Kathryn M. Sutton**

Partner  
+1.202.739.5738  
kathryn.sutton@morganlewis.com

**Paul M. Bessette**

Partner  
+1.202.739.5796  
paul.bessette@morganlewis.com

March 29, 2016

Lawrence G. McDade, Chairman  
Dr. Michael F. Kennedy  
Dr. Richard E. Wardwell  
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

**Docket:** *Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. (Indian Point Nuclear Generating Units 2 and 3), Docket Nos. 50-247-LR and 50-286-LR*

**Re:** **Licensing Board Notification of Preliminary Indian Point Unit 2 Baffle-Former Assembly Bolt Inspection Findings**

Dear Administrative Judges:

In accordance with its obligation to inform the Licensing Board of relevant developments in a timely fashion,<sup>1</sup> Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. (“Entergy”) hereby notifies the Licensing Board of recent developments relevant to Contentions NYS-25 and NYS-38/RK-TC-5. By way of explanation, the parties’ testimony on those contentions discusses relevant industry operating experience as well as Entergy’s planned inspections of baffle-former assembly bolts located within the Indian Point Unit 2 (“IP2”) reactor pressure vessel during the now-ongoing refueling and maintenance outage that commenced on March 7, 2016. Specifically, Entergy conducted visual and, where feasible, volumetric (ultrasonic testing, or “UT”) examinations of approximately 2000 baffle-former assembly bolts (which include baffle-former and baffle-edge bolts) as part of the reactor vessel internals aging management program. The visual and preliminary UT examination results show indications (*e.g.*, missing bolts, and bars meant to hold them in place, and other

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<sup>1</sup> See *Duke Power Co.* (William B. McGuire Nuclear Station, Units 1 & 2), ALAB-143, 6 AEC 623, 625 (1973); *Metro. Edison Co.* (Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, Unit 1), ALAB-774, 19 NRC 1350, 1359 (1984).

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degradation requiring replacement of the bolts) on approximately 227 of 832 baffle-former bolts. No failures of the baffle-edge bolts were identified.

Entergy is reporting this event to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (“NRC”) pursuant to 10 C.F.R. § 50.72.

As required by plant procedures, Entergy has entered the inspection findings into its Corrective Action Program and is taking appropriate corrective actions, including the conduct of a root cause analysis. In accordance with its mandatory disclosure obligations in this proceeding, Entergy today disclosed the condition report (“CR”) for the preliminary baffle-former bolt inspection findings to the other parties.

In addition, Entergy plans to initiate consultations with New York State, Riverkeeper, and the NRC Staff under 10 C.F.R. § 2.323(b) to discuss the potential implications of the inspection findings for the pending adjudication on Contentions NYS-25 and NYS-38/RK-TC-5, particularly in light of the ongoing nature of Entergy’s evaluations of the inspection findings. At this juncture, because New York State’s reply supplemental testimony is due on Friday, April 1, Entergy will propose that the parties prepare and submit to the Licensing Board a joint motion requesting a 30-day abeyance of the Track 2 proceedings pending the completion of Entergy’s initial evaluation and/or a further report from Entergy.

Respectfully submitted,

Executed in accord with 10 C.F.R. § 2.304(d)

Paul M. Bessette, Esq.  
MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP  
1111 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20004  
Phone: (202) 739-5796  
Fax: (202) 739-3001  
E-mail: paul.bessette@morganlewis.com

*Counsel for Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.*

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

**BEFORE THE ATOMIC SAFETY AND LICENSING BOARD**

|   |   |  |   |                           |
|---|---|--|---|---------------------------|
| In the Matter of                                | ) |  | ) | Docket Nos. 50-247-LR and |
|   | ) |  | ) | 50-286-LR                 |
| ENTERGY NUCLEAR OPERATIONS, INC.                | ) |  | ) |                           |
| (Indian Point Nuclear Generating Units 2 and 3) | ) |  | ) | March 29, 2016            |

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

Pursuant to 10 C.F.R. § 2.305 (as revised), I hereby certify that, on this date, copies of Entergy’s “Licensing Board Notification of Preliminary Indian Point Unit 2 Baffle-Former Assembly Bolt Inspection Findings” were served upon the Electronic Information Exchange (the NRC’s E-Filing System), in the above-captioned proceeding.

*Signed (electronically) by Martin J. O’Neill*

Martin J. O’Neill, Esq.  
MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP  
1000 Louisiana Street, Suite 4000  
Houston, TX 77002  
Phone: (713) 890-5710  
Fax: (713) 890-5001  
E-mail: martin.o’neill@morganlewis.com

*Counsel for Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.*