

February 15, 2001

Mr. Michael R. Kansler
Senior Vice President and
Chief Operating Officer
Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.
440 Hamilton Avenue
White Plains, NY 10601

SUBJECT: CLOSEOUT OF GENERIC LETTER 98-02 - INDIAN POINT NUCLEAR
GENERATING UNIT NO. 3 (TAC NO. MA4790)

Dear Mr. Kansler:

On May 28, 1998, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued Generic Letter (GL) 98-02 to all holders of operating licenses for Pressurized-Water Reactors (PWRs), except those who have permanently ceased operations, and have certified that fuel has been permanently removed from the reactor vessel. The NRC issued GL 98-02 to request that PWR licensees evaluate a September 17, 1994, event, which occurred at Wolf Creek, which had the potential to drain the reactor coolant system to the refueling water storage tank and, at the same time, render the emergency core cooling system (ECCS) and residual heat removal (RHR) system inoperable by introducing a steam/water mixture to the suction side of the ECCS and RHR pumps. Addressees of GL 98-02 were requested to provide the following information within 180 days: (1) an assessment of whether the addressee's facility is vulnerable to the September 17, 1994, Wolf Creek event, and (2) if the facility is found to be vulnerable, an assessment of the plant-specific 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix B, quality assurance program attributes which will prevent the subject event. If the addressee's facility was determined to be vulnerable, a response to information item (1) was to be provided pursuant to 10 CFR 50.54(f) and 10 CFR 50.4, and the responses to information items (1) and (2) were to be kept in a licensee's retrievable system for use by the NRC staff on an as-needed basis.

In response to GL 98-02, you provided a letter dated November 19, 1998, for Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit No. 3 (IP3). This letter indicated that IP3 is vulnerable to the type of incident which occurred at Wolf Creek and further indicated that additional precautions should be added to certain risk assessment and operation procedures to prevent an incident similar to the Wolf Creek event from occurring at IP3.

On January 27, 2000, we issued Inspection Report No. 50-286/1999-009. This inspection report documented the NRC staff's on-site verification of activities which you undertook in response to GL 98-02 for IP3. The report specifically noted that precautions had been added to heatup and cooldown procedures to prevent the inadvertent opening of isolation valves. The report concluded that your actions had fulfilled the intent of GL 98-02.

The NRC staff has reviewed your response to GL 98-02 and has concluded that (1) all the information requested by GL 98-02 has been provided and (2) that your on-site activities

adequately addressed the concerns of GL 98-02 for IP3; therefore, we consider GL 98-02 to be closed for IP3. This completes the staff's efforts on TAC No. MA4790.

Sincerely,

/RA/

George F. Wunder, Project Manager, Section 1
Project Directorate I
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-286

cc: See next page

The NRC staff has reviewed your response to GL 98-02 and has concluded that (1) all the information requested by GL 98-02 has been provided and (2) that your on-site activities adequately addressed the concerns of GL 98-02 for IP3; therefore, we consider GL 98-02 to be closed for IP3. This completes the staff's efforts on TAC No. MA4790.

Sincerely,

/RA/

George F. Wunder, Project Manager, Section 1
Project Directorate I
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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