

March 22, 2001

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

SUBJECT: INDIAN POINT NUCLEAR GENERATING UNIT NO. 3 - PROPOSED MEETING
TO DISCUSS PROMATEC HEMYC 1-HOUR AND MT 3-HOUR FIRE BARRIER
SYSTEMS (TAC NO. MB1311)

Dear Mr. Kansler:

During a November 1999 fire protection inspection at Carolina Power & Light Company's Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant (HNP), the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff identified a potential issue associated with Promatec Hemyc 1-hour and MT 3-hour fire barrier systems not being qualified to meet 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix R, safe shutdown separation requirements. In a November 23, 1999, Task Interface Agreement (TIA 99-028; ADAMS Accession No. ML003671052), Region II requested the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation's (NRR's) assistance to resolve this issue. In its August 1, 2000, response to TIA 99-028 (ADAMS Accession No. ML003736721), the NRR staff concluded that the fire rating of the installed fire wrap at HNP was indeterminate.

The Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) confirmed that the plants listed below use Hemyc or MT fire wrap to comply with 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix R, safe shutdown separation requirements.

Arkansas Nuclear One Units 1 and 2	Beaver Valley Unit 1
Catawba Units 1 and 2	FitzPatrick
Ginna	Harris
Indian Point Units 2 and 3	McGuire Units 1 and 2
Robinson 2	Vermont Yankee
Waterford	

NRR staff had requested that NEI coordinate a generic industry initiative to address the Hemyc and MT fire barrier issue, but NEI declined. Therefore, the staff will be working with the affected licensees to resolve this issue. The staff's planned course of action includes meeting with the affected licensees as a group to discuss: (1) the technical issues, (2) the applicability of the issues to the affected plants, and (3) the ultimate resolution of the issue. We are requesting that the affected licensees take the issue on as a voluntary initiative and propose an approach for resolving the issue.

M. Kansler

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In the near future, the NRC Lead Project Manager for this issue, Richard Laufer, or I will contact you and the other affected licensees to arrange a joint meeting to discuss the Hemyc and MT fire barrier issue. Allowing time for licensees to review and consider the results from the HNP review (TIA 99-028), we estimate that the meeting will take place in the May - June 2001 timeframe.

Sincerely,

/RA/

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

Docket No. 50-286

cc: See next page

Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit No. 3

Mr. Jerry Yelverton
Chief Executive Officer
Entergy Operations
1340 Echelon Parkway
Jackson, MS 39213

Mr. Robert J. Barrett
Vice President Operations
Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.
Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit 3
P.O. Box 308
Buchanan, NY 10511

Mr. Dan Pace
Vice President Engineering
Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.
440 Hamilton Avenue
White Plains, NY 10601

Mr. James Knubel
Vice President Operations Support
Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.
440 Hamilton Avenue
White Plains, NY 10601

Mr. John Kelly
Director - Licensing
Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.
440 Hamilton Avenue
White Plains, NY 10601

Ms. Charlene Fiason
Licensing
Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.
440 Hamilton Avenue
White Plains, NY 10601

Mr. Harry P. Salmon, Jr.
Director of Oversight
Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.
440 Hamilton Avenue
White Plains, NY 10601

Mr. Fred Dacimo
Plant Manager
Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.
Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit 3
P.O. Box 308
Buchanan, NY 10511

Mr. Kenneth Peters
Licensing Manager
Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.
Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit 3
P.O. Box 308
Buchanan, NY 10511

Resident Inspector's Office
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
P.O. Box 337
Buchanan, NY 10511

Regional Administrator, Region I
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
475 Allendale Road
King of Prussia, PA 19406

Mr. John M. Fulton
Assistant General Counsel
Entergy Nuclear Generating Co.
Pilgrim Station
600 Rocky Hill Road
Plymouth, MA 02360

Mr. William M. Flynn, President
New York State Energy, Research, and
Development Authority
Corporate Plaza West
286 Washington Avenue Extension
Albany, NY 12203-6399

Mr. J. Spath, Program Director
New York State Energy, Research, and
Development Authority
Corporate Plaza West
286 Washington Avenue Extension
Albany, NY 12203-6399

Mr. Paul Eddy
Electric Division
New York State Department
of Public Service
3 Empire State Plaza, 10th Floor
Albany, NY 12223

Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit No. 3

Mr. Charles Donaldson, Esquire
Assistant Attorney General
New York Department of Law
120 Broadway
New York, NY 10271

Mr. Ronald Schwartz
SRC Consultant
64 Walnut Drive
Spring Lake Heights, NJ 07762

Mr. Ronald J. Roole
SRC Consultant
Toole Insight
605 West Horner Street
Ebensburg, PA 15931

Mr. Charles W. Hehl
SRC Consultant
Charles Hehl, Inc.
1486 Matthew Lane
Pottstown, PA 19465

Mayor, Village of Buchanan
236 Tate Avenue
Buchanan, NY 10511

Mr. John McCann
Nuclear Safety and Licensing
Consolidated Edison Co. of New York, Inc.
Broadway and Bleakley Avenues
Buchanan, NY 10511

Mr. Tony Morra
Executive Chair
Four County Nuclear Safety Committee
Westchester County Fire Training Center
4 Dana Road
Valhalla, NY 10592

Mr. Fred Emerson
Nuclear Energy Institute
1776 I Street, NW, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20006

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George Wunder, Project Manager, Section I
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