

March 22, 2001

Mr. A. Alan Blind
Vice President, Nuclear Power
Consolidated Edison Company
of New York, Inc.
Broadway and Bleakley Avenue
Buchanan, NY 10511

SUBJECT: INDIAN POINT NUCLEAR GENERATING UNIT NO. 2 - PROPOSED MEETING
TO DISCUSS PROMATEC HEMYC 1-HOUR AND MT 3-HOUR FIRE BARRIER
SYSTEMS (TAC NO. MB1311)

Dear Mr. Blind:

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 Task Interface Agreement dated November 23, 1999, (TIA 99-028; ADAMS Accession No. ML003671052), NRC Region II staff requested assistance from the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) to resolve this issue. On August 1, 2000, the NRR staff responded to the TIA 99-028 (ADAMS Accession No. ML003736721) and 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
Catawba Units 1 and 2
Ginna
Indian Point Units 2 and 3
Robinson 2
Waterford

Beaver Valley Unit 1
FitzPatrick
Harris
McGuire Units 1 and 2
Vermont Yankee

NRR staff 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. Thus, the staff is requesting that the affected licensees accept the issue as a voluntary initiative and propose an approach for resolving the issue.

A. Blind

- 2 -

March 22, 2001

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/

Patrick D. Milano, Senior Project Manager, Section 1
Project Directorate I
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-247

cc: See next page

A. Blind

- 2 -

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Patrick D. Milano, Senior Project Manager, Section 1
Project Directorate I
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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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Accession No. ML010750472

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