

October 18, 2001

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

SUBJECT: INDIAN POINT NUCLEAR GENERATING UNIT NOS. 2 AND 3 - TELEPHONE
CONFERENCE SUMMARY RE: RESPONSES TO BULLETIN 2001-01,
"CIRCUMFERENTIAL CRACKING OF REACTOR PRESSURE VESSEL HEAD
PENETRATION NOZZLES" (TAC NOS. MB2634 AND MB2635)

Dear Mr. Kansler:

On August 3, 2001, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued Bulletin 2001-01, "Circumferential Cracking of Reactor Pressure Vessel Head Penetration Nozzles" (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System [ADAMS] Accession No. ML012080284) to the industry requesting that addressees provide information related to the structural integrity of the reactor pressure vessel head penetration (VHP) nozzles for their respective facilities, including (1) the extent of VHP nozzle leakage and cracking that had been found to date, (2) the inspections and repairs that have been undertaken to satisfy applicable regulatory requirements, and (3) the basis for concluding that their plans for future inspections would ensure compliance with applicable regulatory requirements at their respective pressurized water reactor (PWR) plants. The Bulletin required a response from addressees within 30 days of issuance.

In a letter dated September 4, 2001 (ADAMS Accession Nos. ML012500124), Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc. responded to Bulletin 2001-01 for Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit No. 2 (IP2) and indicated that Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. (ENO) would supplement the response in 30 days because of the pending license transfer. In letters dated September 24 and August 31, 2001 (ADAMS Accession Nos. ML012710201 and ML012610127), ENO provided the supplemental information for IP2 and responded to the Bulletin for Indian Point Generating Unit No. 3 (IP3). Subsequently, a telephone conference was held with representatives from your staff on October 9, 2001, to discuss your responses. In this telephone conference, your staff reiterated ENO's proposal to conduct an "above the insulation" visual inspection of the VHP nozzles while it monitored the inspections conducted by other licensees prior to the next IP2 refueling outage. ENO's final VHP inspection plans would be submitted to the NRC 90 days before the start of the refueling outage. However, the NRC staff stated that the proposed method did not fulfill the expectations in the Bulletin. Therefore, your staff stated that ENO would consider conducting a volumetric inspection of 100 percent of the VHP nozzles from the wetted surface of the vessel head in lieu of the 100 percent visual inspection recommended in the Bulletin. Further, your staff stated that it would supplement the Bulletin response for IP2 and 3 upon deciding on the actual scope and method for the inspection. It was agreed that ENO would submit a supplement to the Bulletin to the NRC via letter in approximately 1 month. This information is necessary for the NRC staff to complete its review of your Bulletin 2001-01 response.

M. Kansler

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If you have any questions or comments concerning this issue, please contact me via telephone at (301) 415-1457.

Sincerely,

/RA/

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

M. Kansler

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Sincerely,

/RA/

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