



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

June 16, 2015

CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Nita M. Lowey  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Lowey:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to your letter of May 13, 2015, concerning a transformer fire at the Indian Point Energy Center on May 9, 2015. Specifically, you asked for a thorough investigation of the cause of the fire and the safety risks it posed, an examination of the environmental health impacts, and a list and justification for all safety exemptions the NRC has granted at the Indian Point facility.

At 5:50 p.m. on May 9, 2015, with Unit 3 operating at 100 percent power, one of its two main transformers failed. The cause of the failure has not yet been identified. The failure resulted in an automatic shutdown of the reactor and an oil fire occurred in the vicinity of the main transformer. Plant operators declared an "Unusual Event"—the lowest of four levels of emergency classification for nuclear power plants used by the NRC—at 6:01 p.m. because of the explosion associated with the transformer failure. A fire suppression system for the transformer automatically doused the fire. In addition, the plant's onsite fire brigade, with assistance from the Montrose and Verplank fire departments, sprayed water and foam onto the transformer to help put out the fire. NRC resident inspectors responded to the site, observed Entergy's initial response to the fire event, and verified that the reactor was safely shutdown without complications. The Unusual Event was terminated at 9:03 p.m. after the fire was fully extinguished.

Main transformers are covered by the NRC's fire protection requirements, which establish a "defense-in-depth" approach to prevent, detect, control, and extinguish fires. Specifically, fire protection systems must protect safe shutdown equipment from the impact of large transformer fires. Transformers typically are protected by automatic water spray systems, as is the case at Indian Point.

As part of its ongoing baseline inspection program, NRC Region I inspectors will review Entergy's evaluation of the cause of the transformer failure and the plant's response, including performance of the automatic shutdown systems, safety systems, and the activation of the fire brigade. Because there have been multiple transformer fires at Indian Point over the past several years, the inspectors also will evaluate possible common elements among these events, such as transformer monitoring and maintenance practices. These results will be published in future publicly available inspection reports.

Additionally, the NRC initiated a Special Inspection at Indian Point Unit 3 shortly after the transformer failure event to better understand the unexpected presence of water in an electrical equipment room during the event on May 9. This room contains electrical equipment that provides power to plant safety systems. Among other things, the NRC inspectors will be

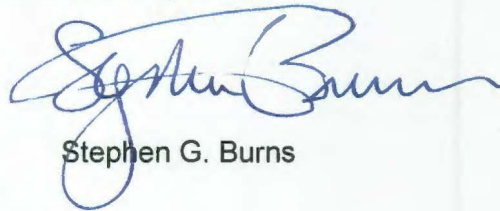
reviewing whether the efforts to extinguish the transformer fire caused the accumulation of the water observed in the electrical equipment room.

With regard to environmental health impacts of the transformer fire, (i.e., the impacts of an oil and/or chemical release to the river), the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation is responsible for examining those impacts.

As requested, enclosed with this letter is a listing of all exemptions, including fire protection-related exemptions, granted by the NRC to Indian Point Units 2 and 3. The list is publicly available in the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System at Accession No. ML12172A370. The list also is on the nrc.gov website, Indian Point page (<http://www.nrc.gov/info-finder/reactor/ip2.html>). While the list was compiled on June 20, 2012, it remains current as no exemptions have been granted since the list was created. The justification for each exemption is contained in the documents (letter or Grant of Exemption) referenced with each listed exemption. The NRC staff has reviewed the Indian Point exemptions listed in the enclosure and has determined that none of those exemptions played a role in the transformer failure of May 9.

I have directed the NRC's Office of Congressional Affairs (OCA) to provide you with a copy of the referenced inspection reports when they become available. If you have any questions, please contact me or Eugene Dacus, Director of OCA, at (301) 415-1776.

Sincerely,



Stephen G. Burns

Enclosure:  
As stated



List of Indian Point exemptions, 1968-present  
Updated 6/20/12  
ADAMS Accession No. ML12172A370

Accession Number ML003778728  
Document Date 11/15/1968  
Document Type Letter  
Title Reply to request dated 07/23/68, for an exemption pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12 which would permit pouring the concrete for base mat, installing bottom liner plates and transition knuckle plates, and installing reinforcing steel for Indian Point Unit 3.  
Author Affiliation US Atomic Energy Commission (AEC)  
Author Name Price H L  
Pages 4  
Official Record? Yes  
Availability Publicly Available  
Sensitivity Non-Sensitive

Accession Number ML100250821 (was 8111140577)  
Document Date 12/12/1975  
Document Type CORRESPONDENCE-LETTERS, NRC TO UTILITY OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE  
Title Grants util 751107 request for exemption from certain 10CFR50, App J requirements re performance of reduced pressure leak test. Exemption will not endanger life, property or common defense & security & serves public interest.  
Author Affiliation NRC OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION (NRR)  
Author Name RUSCHE B C  
Pages 3  
Official Record? Yes  
Availability Publicly Available  
Sensitivity Non-Sensitive

Accession Number ML003779347 (was 8205130498)  
Document Date 05/05/1982  
Document Type CORRESPONDENCE-LETTERS, NRC TO UTILITY OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE  
Title Advises that exemption request re fire protection rule schedular requirements granted.  
Author Affiliation NRC OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION (NRR)  
Author Name VARGA S A  
Pages 5  
Official Record? Yes  
Availability Publicly Available  
Sensitivity Non-Sensitive

Enclosure

Accession Number ML003779284 (was 8402170506)  
 Document Date 02/02/1984  
 Document Type CORRESPONDENCE-LETTERS, NRC TO UTILITY OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE  
 Title Forwards exemption from requirements of 10CFR50, App R, Sections III.G.2 & 3 re upper electrical penetration areas & cable tunnels & sump,pump & control rooms.  
 Author Affiliation NRC OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION (NRR)  
 Author Name EISENHUT D G  
 Pages 8  
 Official Record? Yes  
 Availability Publicly Available  
 Sensitivity Non-Sensitive

Accession Number ML003776267 (was 8410240494)  
 Document Date 09/29/1984  
 Document Type CORRESPONDENCE-LETTERS, NRC TO UTILITY, OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE  
 Title Forwards one-time-only exemption approving request for schedular extension from annual emergency exercise requirements of 10CFR50,App E.Exercise now required by 841030.  
 Author Affiliation NRC OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION (NRR)  
 Author Name VARGA S A  
 Pages 1  
 Official Record? Yes  
 Availability Publicly Available  
 Sensitivity Non-Sensitive

Accession Number ML003776266 (was 8410290219)  
 Document Date 10/16/1984  
 Document Type CORRESPONDENCE-LETTERS, NRC TO UTILITY, OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE  
 Title Forwards exemption granting 15 requests for exemption from requirements of 10CFR50 App R,Sections III.G.,III.J & III.O. Request re HVAC exhaust fans & emergency lighting still under review.  
 Author Affiliation NRC OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION (NRR)  
 Author Name EISENHUT D G  
 Pages 2  
 Official Record? Yes  
 Availability Publicly Available  
 Sensitivity Non-Sensitive

Accession Number	ML003776119 (was 8509190267)
Document Date	09/16/1985
Document Type	CORRESPONDENCE-LETTERS, NRC TO UTILITY, OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE
Title	Forwards SER re control room penetration seals.NRC decision to grant App R exemption request for control room penetration seals remains valid based on info in 850220 & 0523 ltrs.
Author Affiliation	NRC OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION (NRR)
Author Name	VARGA S A
Pages	4
Official Record?	Yes
Availability	Publicly Available
Sensitivity	Non-Sensitive
Accession Number	ML003776459 (was 8511250496)
Document Date	11/13/1985
Document Type	GRANTS OF EXEMPTION FROM & EXTENSION TO NRC REQUIREME, LEGAL TRANSCRIPTS & ORDERS & PLEADINGS
Title	Exemption granting 830713 request for exemption from 10CFR50, App R, Section III.J requirements re 8 h battery- powered emergency lighting units in areas needed for operation of safe shutdown equipment.
Author Affiliation	NRC OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION (NRR)
Author Name	THOMPSON H L
Pages	3
Official Record?	Yes
Availability	Publicly Available
Sensitivity	Non-Sensitive
Accession Number	ML003779008 (was 8701140391)
Document Date	01/07/1987
Document Type	GRANTS OF EXEMPTION FROM & EXTENSION TO NRC REQUIREME, LEGAL TRANSCRIPTS & ORDERS & PLEADINGS
Title	Exemption from requirements of 10CFR50, App R, Sections III.G & III.J re fire protection program.
Author Affiliation	NRC OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION (NRR)
Author Name	NOVAK T M
Pages	6
Official Record?	Yes
Availability	Publicly Available
Sensitivity	Non-Sensitive



Accession Number	ML003776449 (was 8703110139)
Document Date	03/04/1987
Document Type	GRANTS OF EXEMPTION FROM & EXTENSION TO NRC REQUIREME, LEGAL TRANSCRIPTS & ORDERS & PLEADINGS
Title	Exemption from requirements of 10CFR50, App R, Section III.G.2 for charging pump room, RHR pump room & auxiliary boiler feedwater pump room redundant HVAC exhaust fans to extent that HVAC circuits not separated & protected.
Author Affiliation	NRC OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION (NRR)
Author Name	NOVAK T M
Pages	5
Official Record?	No
Availability	Publicly Available
Sensitivity	Non-Sensitive
Accession Number	ML003777971 (was 8810120076)
Document Date	10/04/1988
Document Type	GRANTS OF EXEMPTION FROM & EXTENSION TO NRC REQUIREME, LEGAL TRANSCRIPTS & ORDERS & PLEADINGS
Title	Temporary exemption from schedular requirements of property insurance rule 10CFR50.54, effective 881004.
Author Affiliation	NRC OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION (NRR)
Author Name	VARGA S A
Pages	4
Official Record?	Yes
Availability	Publicly Available
Sensitivity	Non-Sensitive
Accession Number	ML100431432 (was 8812120228)
Document Date	12/02/1988
Document Type	CORRESPONDENCE-LETTERS, NRC TO UTILITY, OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE
Title	Approves 881104 request for exemption from licensed operator requalification program cycle. Understands that facility will commence 24 month requalification program cycle in Feb 1989.
Author Affiliation	NRC OFFICE OF INSPECTION & ENFORCEMENT (IE REGION I)
Author Name	GALLO R M
Pages	2
Official Record?	Yes
Availability	Publicly Available
Sensitivity	Non-Sensitive

Accession Number	ML003778258 (was 9104020366)
Document Date	03/25/1991
Document Type	GRANTS OF EXEMPTION FROM & EXTENSION TO NRC REQUIREMENTS, LEGAL TRANSCRIPTS & ORDERS & PLEADINGS
Title	Exemption from requirements of 10CFR55.45(b)(2)(iii) & (iv) for operating tests on plant simulators.
Author Affiliation	NRC OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION (NRR)
Author Name	GREENMAN E G
Pages	8
Official Record?	Yes
Availability	Publicly Available
Sensitivity	Non-Sensitive
Accession Number	ML093420782 (was 9205200294)
Document Date	5/6/1992
Document Type	CORRESPONDENCE-LETTERS, OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE
Title	Forwards exemption from 10CFR50.46(a)(1)(i), 10CFR50.44(a) & app k to 10CFR50 re use of ZIRLO clad fuel at facility.
Author Affiliation	NRC/NRR
Author Name	Capra R A
Pages	2
Official Record?	Yes
Availability	Publicly Available
Sensitivity	Non-Sensitive
Accession Number	ML093420786
Document Date	5/6/1992
Document Type	GRANTS OF EXEMPTION FROM & EXTENSION TO NRC REQUIREMENTS, LEGAL TRANSCRIPTS & ORDERS & PLEADINGS
Title	Exemptions from 10CFR50.46(a)(1)(i), 10CFR50.44(a) & app K to 10CFR50 re use of ZIRLO clad fuel at facility.
Author Affiliation	NRC/NRR
Author Name	Varga S A
Pages	10
Official Record?	Yes
Availability	Publicly Available
Sensitivity	Non-Sensitive



Accession Number	ML003780054 (was 9302260324)
Document Date	02/19/1993
Document Type	GRANTS OF EXEMPTION FROM & EXTENSION TO NRC REQUIREME, LEGAL TRANSCRIPTS & ORDERS & PLEADINGS
Title	Exemption from requirements of 10CFR50, App J, Paragraph III.D.3 re interval to perform Type C local leak rate tests.
Author Affiliation	NRC OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION (NRR)
Author Name	VARGA S A
Pages	8
Official Record?	Yes
Availability	Publicly Available
Sensitivity	Non-Sensitive
Accession Number	ML003777066 (was 9406280099)
Document Date	06/20/1994
Document Type	GRANTS OF EXEMPTION FROM & EXTENSION TO NRC REQUIREME, LEGAL TRANSCRIPTS & ORDERS & PLEADINGS
Title	Exemption from requirements of 10CFR50, App J, Paragraph III.D.3 re interval for Type C tests.
Author Affiliation	NRC OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION (NRR)
Author Name	VARGA S A
Pages	7
Official Record?	Yes
Availability	Publicly Available
Sensitivity	Non-Sensitive
Accession Number	ML003780501 (was 9411160172)
Document Date	11/04/1994
Document Type	GRANTS OF EXEMPTION FROM & EXTENSION TO NRC REQUIREME, LEGAL TRANSCRIPTS & ORDERS & PLEADINGS
Title	Exemption from requirements of 10CFR50, App J, paragraph III.D.3.
Author Affiliation	NRC OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION (NRR)
Author Name	HEBDON F J
Pages	6
Official Record?	Yes
Availability	Publicly Available
Sensitivity	Non-Sensitive
Accession Number	ML003780510 (was 9501120132)
Document Date	01/05/1995
Document Type	GRANTS OF EXEMPTION FROM & EXTENSION TO NRC REQUIREME, LEGAL TRANSCRIPTS & ORDERS & PLEADINGS
Title	Exemption from requirements of 10CFR50, App R, Section III.G.2. re protection of redundant equipment from fire damage at plant.
Author Affiliation	NRC OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION (NRR)
Author Name	BERKOW H N



Pages	9
Official Record?	Yes
Availability	Publicly Available
Sensitivity	Non-Sensitive
Accession Number	ML003778396 (was 9503160113)
Document Date	03/08/1995
Document Type	GRANTS OF EXEMPTION FROM & EXTENSION TO NRC REQUIREME, LEGAL TRANSCRIPTS & ORDERS & PLEADINGS
Title	Exemption from requirements of 10CFR, App J, re delay of performance of type A until 1997 refueling outage.
Author Affiliation	NRC OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION (NRR)
Author Name	VARGA S A
Pages	7
Official Record?	No
Availability	Publicly Available
Sensitivity	Non-Sensitive
Accession Number	ML003780509 (was 9504040095)
Document Date	03/29/1995
Document Type	GRANTS OF EXEMPTION FROM & EXTENSION TO NRC REQUIREME, LEGAL TRANSCRIPTS & ORDERS & PLEADINGS
Title	Exemption from requirement of 10CFR50, App R, Section III.J, issued to util on 870117, remains in effect.Exemption re emergency lighting requirements for operation of safe shutdown equipment.
Author Affiliation	NRC OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION (NRR)
Author Name	VARGA S A
Pages	7
Official Record?	Yes
Availability	Publicly Available
Sensitivity	Non-Sensitive
Accession Number	ML003780547 (was 9510040200)
Document Date	09/28/1995
Document Type	GRANTS OF EXEMPTION FROM & EXTENSION TO NRC REQUIREME, LEGAL TRANSCRIPTS & ORDERS & PLEADINGS
Title	Exemption granting util one time schedular exemption from requirement of 10CFR50.71(e)(4), to extent that current FSAR update submittal due date has been extended from 950722-1227.
Author Affiliation	NRC (Affiliation Not Assigned)
Author Name	VARGA S A
Pages	5
Official Record?	Yes
Availability	Publicly Available
Sensitivity	Non-Sensitive

Accession Number	ML093520455 (was 9511160301)
Document Date	11/1/1995
Document Type	CORRESPONDENCE-LETTERS, OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE
Title	Forwards exemption from certain requirements of 10CFR73.55 re issuance, storage & retrieval of combined picture badges/ keycards for certain non-employees granted unescorted access into protected areas of plant.
Author Affiliation	NRC (Affiliation Not Assigned)
Author Name	Williams F J
Pages	3
Official Record?	Yes
Availability	Publicly Available
Sensitivity	Non-Sensitive
Accession Number	ML093520457
Document Date	11/1/1995
Document Type	GRANTS OF EXEMPTION FROM & EXTENSION TO NRC REQUIREMENTS, LEGAL TRANSCRIPTS & ORDERS & PLEADINGS
Title	Exemption from requirements of 10CFR73.55 re individuals w/unescorted access to protected areas must keep picture badges/keycards in possession when departing plant, units 1 & 2.
Author Affiliation	NRC (Affiliation Not Assigned)
Author Name	Varga S A
Pages	6
Official Record?	Yes
Availability	Publicly Available
Sensitivity	Non-Sensitive
Accession Number	ML003780555(was 9702030211)
Document Date	01/28/1997
Document Type	GRANTS OF EXEMPTION FROM & EXTENSION TO NRC REQUIREME, LEGAL TRANSCRIPTS & ORDERS & PLEADINGS
Title	Exemption from extension to allow one-time extension of four & half months to type C interval. TS & exsisting exemption allow licensee to operate w/24 month fuel cycle.
Author Affiliation	NRC (Affiliation Not Assigned)
Author Name	MIRAGLIA F J
Pages	6
Official Record?	Yes
Availability	Publicly Available
Sensitivity	Non-Sensitive



Accession Number	ML003780885 (was 9704010452)
Document Date	03/27/1997
Document Type	GRANTS OF EXEMPTION FROM & EXTENSION TO NRC REQUIREME, LEGAL TRANSCRIPTS & ORDERS & PLEADINGS
Title	Exemption from requirements of 10CFR70.24, "Criticality Accident Requirements." Util exempt from requirements of 10CFR70.24(a), 10CFR70.24(a)(1) & 10CFR70.24(a)(3) for plant, unit 3.
Author Affiliation	NRC (Affiliation Not Assigned)
Author Name	MIRAGLIA F J
Pages	6
Official Record?	Yes
Availability	Publicly Available
Sensitivity	Non-Sensitive
Accession Number	ML003778540 (was 9802240244)
Document Date	01/27/1998
Document Type	CORRESPONDENCE-LETTERS, OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE
Title	Forwards exemption from requirements of 10 CFR 50.60, "Acceptance Criteria for Fracture Prevention for Lightwater Nuclear Power Reactors for Normal Operation."
Author Affiliation	NRC (Affiliation Not Assigned)
Author Name	HAROLD J F
Pages	4
Official Record?	Yes
Availability	Publicly Available
Sensitivity	Non-Sensitive
Accession Number	ML003780861 (was 9804170107)
Document Date	04/10/1998
Document Type	GRANTS OF EXEMPTION FROM & EXTENSION TO NRC REQUIREME, LEGAL TRANSCRIPTS & ORDERS & PLEADINGS
Title	Exemption from requirements of 10 CFR 50.60, "Acceptance Criteria for Fracture Prevention Measures for Lightwater Nuclear Power Reacators for Normal Operation," to allow use of Code Case N-514.
Author Affiliation	NRC (Affiliation Not Assigned)
Author Name	COLLINS S J
Pages	5
Official Record?	Yes
Availability	Publicly Available
Sensitivity	Non-Sensitive

Accession Number	ML003780860
Document Date	4/10/1998
Document Type	Exemption from NRC Requirements, Letter
Title	Exemption From The Requirements of 10 CFR 50.60 "Acceptance criteria for fracture prevention measures for lightwater nuclear power reactors for normal operation"
Author Affiliation	NRC/NRR
Author Name	Wunder G F
Pages	10
Official Record?	Yes
Availability	Publicly Available
Sensitivity	Non-Sensitive
Accession Number	ML003780770 (was 9812220165)
Document Date	12/10/1998
Document Type	GRANTS OF EXEMPTION FROM & EXTENSION TO NRC REQUIREME, LEGAL TRANSCRIPTS & ORDERS & PLEADINGS
Title	Exemption from requirements 10CFR70.24 re criticality accident requirements, for plant, Unit 3.
Author Affiliation	NRC (Affiliation Not Assigned)
Author Name	COLLINS S J
Pages	4
Official Record?	Yes
Availability	Publicly Available
Sensitivity	Non-Sensitive
Accession Number	ML020380067
Document Date	2/15/2002
Document Type	Exemption from NRC Requirements, Letter
Title	Indian Point Nuclear Generating, Unit No. 2 - Exemption from the Requirements of 10 CFR, Part 50, Section 50.60(a) (Tac No. MB2420).
Author Affiliation	NRC/NRR/DLPM/LPD1
Author Name	Milano P D
Pages	14
Official Record?	Yes
Availability	Publicly Available
Sensitivity	Non-Sensitive



Accession Number	ML022550559
Document Date	9/12/2002
Document Type	Exemption from NRC Requirements, Letter
Title	Arkansas Nuclear One, Units 1 & 2; Grand Gulf, Indian Point, Units 1, 2 & 3; Fitzpatrick, Pilgrim, River Bend & Vermont Yankee, Exemption from Requirements of 10 CFR Part 20, Section 20.1003 Definition of Total Effective Dose Equivalent (TEDE).
Author Affiliation	NRC/NRR/DLPM/LPD4
Author Name	Alexion T W
Pages	23
Official Record?	Yes
Availability	Publicly Available
Sensitivity	Non-Sensitive
Accession Number	ML030710372
Document Date	4/2/2003
Document Type	Exemption from NRC Requirements, Federal Register Notice, Letter
Title	Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit 3, Exemption Request, Post Accident Containment Ventilation System.
Author Affiliation	NRC/NRR/DLPM/LPD1
Author Name	Milano P D
Pages	10
Official Record?	Yes
Availability	Publicly Available
Sensitivity	Non-Sensitive
Accession Number	ML033360889
Document Date	12/2/2003
Document Type	Exemption from NRC Requirements, Letter
Title	Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit No. 3, Exemption from the Requirements of 10 CFR Part 50, Section 50.60(a) (TAC No. MB9132).
Author Affiliation	NRC/NRR/DLPM/LPD1
Author Name	Milano P D
Pages	13
Official Record?	Yes
Availability	Publicly Available
Sensitivity	Non-Sensitive
Accession Number	ML072410254
Document Date	9/28/2007
Document Type	Exemption from NRC Requirements, Letter
Title	Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit No. 3 - Exemption from the Requirements of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix R (TAC MD2671).
Author Affiliation	NRC/NRR/ADRO/DORL/LPLI-1
Author Name	Boska J P
Pages	18
Official Record?	Yes
Availability	Publicly Available
Sensitivity	Non-Sensitive

Accession Number	ML100539643
Document Date	3/26/2010
Document Type	Letter
Title	Indian Point Units 1-2-3, ME3257-ME3258-ME3259, Letter to Licensee - Transmittal of Exemption - FR Granting Exemption to Extend Implementation Date for 10 CFR Part 73 Final Rule for Physical Security Plans.
Author Affiliation	NRC/NRR/DORL/LPLI-1
Author Name	Boska J P
Pages	8
Official Record?	Yes
Availability	Publicly Available
Sensitivity	Non-Sensitive

Accession Number	ML112140509
Document Date	2/1/2012
Document Type	Letter, Exemption from NRC Requirements
Title	Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit No. 2 - Exemption From the Requirements of 10 CFR 50, Appendix R, Paragraph III.G.2 (TAC No. ME0798).
Author Affiliation	NRC/NRR/DORL
Author Name	Evans, M G
Pages	98
Official Record?	Yes
Availability	Publicly Available
Sensitivity	Non-Sensitive

Accession Number	ML112200442
Document Date	2/1/2012
Document Type	Letter, Exemption from NRC Requirements
Title	Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit No. 3 - Exemption From the Requirements of 10 CFR 50, Appendix R, Paragraph III.G.2 (TAC No. ME0799).
Author Affiliation	NRC/NRR/DORL
Author Name	Evans, M G
Pages	80
Official Record?	Yes
Availability	Publicly Available
Sensitivity	Non-Sensitive



COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS,  
RANKING MEMBER

SUBCOMMITTEE ON STATE, FOREIGN  
OPERATIONS, AND RELATED PROGRAMS,  
RANKING MEMBER



**Nita M. Lowey**  
**Congress of the United States**

**17th District, New York**

May 13, 2015

lowey.house.gov

**WASHINGTON**

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Stephen G. Burns  
Chairman  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
11555 Rockville Pike  
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Chairman Burns,

As you may be aware, on May 9 a transformer caught fire at the Indian Point Energy Center in Buchanan, NY, causing the shutdown of one of Indian Point's reactors. Entergy, the plant's operator, issued a Notification of an Unusual Event, which is the lowest emergency classification, to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). This is merely the latest in a long history of safety lapses. Some of the most egregious examples include:

- In 2000, a leak in a steam generator released radiation and officials forced Con Edison, the previous operator, to shut down the reactor and declare an alert. Con Edison had knowledge that the steam generator leaked radiation for several weeks but did not take corrective action.
- In April 2003, a fire broke out in the main turbine of the non-nuclear area of the plant within hours of a power failure and caused the shutdown of both reactors.
- In December 2003, the NRC reported that Indian Point had three times as many unplanned shutdowns in a 12-month period as any other plant in the nation. The report cited insufficient quality control and poor contractor oversight.
- In April 2007, the NRC downgraded the safety assessment of Indian Point 3 after a transformer fire forced the second shutdown in a one week period and the fourth in a one year period.
- In August 2007, new sirens repeatedly failed to sound during tests. The following year, a report by outside experts hired by Entergy stated that the "entire siren upgrade program was not conducted with the rigor demanded of a regulatory-driven major nuclear plant project."
- In November 2010, a transformer at Indian Point 2 exploded, causing a fire and automatic shutdown of the reactor.

Despite these problems, which now include three transformer fires, the NRC has provided Indian Point with exemptions for certain fire safety standards. I implore the NRC to work with its relevant partners to conduct a thorough investigation to study the factors that led to the May 9 fire and the safety risks the fire created, including environmental health impacts, as well as provide a detailed list and justification for all safety exemptions the NRC has provided Indian Point.

As the NRC considers relicensing both Indian Point reactors, it is vital that everything possible be done to ensure the safety of the surrounding area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Nita M. Lowey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, prominent "N" and "L".

Nita M. Lowey  
Member of Congress