

November 12, 2002

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

SUBJECT: BULLETIN 2002-01, "REACTOR PRESSURE VESSEL HEAD DEGRADATION
AND REACTOR COOLANT PRESSURE BOUNDARY INTEGRITY," 15-DAY
RESPONSE FOR INDIAN POINT NUCLEAR GENERATING UNIT NOS. 2
AND 3 (TAC NOS. MB4550 AND MB4551)

Dear Mr. Kansler:

On March 18, 2002, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued Bulletin 2002-01, "Reactor Pressure Vessel Head Degradation and Reactor Coolant Pressure Boundary Integrity," to the industry requesting that addressees provide information related to the structural integrity of the reactor coolant pressure boundary, including the reactor pressure vessel head, and the extent to which inspections have been undertaken to satisfy applicable regulatory requirements. In the Bulletin 2002-01, the NRC staff also required licensees to provide the basis for concluding that plans for future inspections of the reactor coolant pressure boundary would satisfy applicable regulatory requirements at their respective pressurized-water reactor plants. All addressees were requested to respond to Items 1.A. through E. within 15 days of the Bulletin's issuance, or to provide a written response to the NRC in accordance with the provisions of Title 10, Section 50.54(f), of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR 50.54(f)) if they are unable to provide the information or they cannot meet the requested completion dates.

You provided the 15-day response for Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit Nos. 2 and 3 (IP2 and 3) by letter dated April 2, 2002. Subsequently, on May 15, 2002, you provided the information about the boric acid inspection program at IP2 and 3 that was required by Item 3 of the Bulletin to be submitted within 60 days of the date of the Bulletin. The NRC staff finds that you have provided the requested information, and has concluded that IP2 and 3 do not appear to have conditions similar to those which led to the degradation at the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station. However, the staff will shortly be issuing some questions regarding the information that was provided in your 60-day response in order to complete its full review of your response to Bulletin 2002-01.

Sincerely,

/RA/

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

Docket Nos. 50-247 and 50-286

cc: See next page

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Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit Nos. 2 & 3

cc:

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

Mr. Fred Dacimo
Vice President Operations
Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.
Indian Point Nuclear Generating Units 1 & 2
295 Broadway, Suite 1
P.O. Box 249
Buchanan, NY 10511-0249

Mr. Robert J. Barrett
Vice President - Operations
Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.
Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit 3
295 Broadway, Suite 3
P.O. Box 308
Buchanan, NY 10511-0308

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. Christopher J. Schwarz
General Manager Operations
Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.
Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit 2
295 Broadway, Suite 1
P.O. Box 249
Buchanan, NY 10511-0249

Mr. Joseph DeRoy
General Manager Operations
Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.
Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit 3
295 Broadway, Suite 3
P.O. Box 308
Buchanan, NY 10511-0308

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

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

Mr. John McCann
Manager, Nuclear Safety and Licensing
Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit 2
Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.
295 Broadway, Suite 1
P.O. Box 249
Buchanan, NY 10511-0249

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

Mr. Thomas Walsh
Secretary - NFSC
Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.
Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit 2
295 Broadway, Suite 1
P.O. Box 249
Buchanan, NY 10511-0249

Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit Nos. 2 & 3

cc:

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

Senior Resident Inspector, Indian Point 2
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
295 Broadway, Suite 1
P.O. Box 38
Buchanan, NY 10511-0038

Resident Inspector's Office, Indian Point 3
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
295 Broadway, Suite 3
P.O. Box 337
Buchanan, NY 10511-0337

Mr. John M. Fulton
Assistant General Counsel
Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.
440 Hamilton Avenue
White Plains, NY 10601

Ms. Stacey Lousteau
Treasury Department
Entergy Services, Inc.
639 Loyola Avenue
Mail Stop: L-ENT-15E
New Orleans, LA 70113

Mr. William M. Flynn, President
New York State Energy, Research, and
Development Authority
17 Columbia Circle
Albany, NY 12203-6399

Mr. J. Spath, Program Director
New York State Energy, Research, and
Development Authority
17 Columbia Circle
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

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. Toole
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. Ray Albanese
Executive Chair
Four County Nuclear Safety Committee
Westchester County Fire Training Center
4 Dana Road
Valhalla, NY 10592

Alex Matthiessen
Executive Director
Riverkeeper, Inc.
25 Wing & Wing
Garrison, NY 10524

Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit Nos. 2 & 3

cc:

Paul Leventhal
The Nuclear Control Institute
1000 Connecticut Avenue NW
Suite 410
Washington, DC, 20036

Karl Copeland
Pace Environmental Litigation Clinic
78 No. Broadway
White Plains, NY 10603

Jim Riccio
Greenpeace
702 H Street, NW
Suite 300
Washington, DC 20001