

IPRenewal NPEmails

From: Bowen, Jeremy
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2016 12:41 PM
To: Scott, Michael; Pelton, David; Lorson, Raymond; Krohn, Paul; Dentel, Glenn; Gray, Mel; McNamara, Nancy; Tifft, Doug
Cc: McHale, John
Subject: FW: Commission E-Reader - August 16, 2016
Attachments: Tab C - 08-15-16 Ltr to Sen Sean Maloney (CORR-16-0072).pdf

FYI, in case you didn't receive a copy of the attached.

From: Craver, Patti
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2016 11:40 AM
To: Commission E-Reader Distribution
Subject: Commission E-Reader - August 16, 2016

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Reader is not publicly available.
If there are any questions, please contact SECY.

READING FILE

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August 16, 2016

OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE

Tab "C" – 08/15/16, Letter to the Honorable Sean Patrick Maloney responds to his letter with concerns regarding the restart of Indian Point Energy Center Unit 2 and the need for a safety review of Unit 3 (CORR-16-0072)

Hearing Identifier: IndianPointUnits2and3NonPublic_EX
Email Number: 8381

Mail Envelope Properties (1a2fa053b7024fdbb6f420c211e01074)

Subject: FW: Commission E-Reader - August 16, 2016
Sent Date: 8/16/2016 12:41:18 PM
Received Date: 8/16/2016 12:41:25 PM
From: Bowen, Jeremy

Created By: Jeremy.Bowen@nrc.gov

Recipients:

"McHale, John" <>
Tracking Status: None
"Scott, Michael" <Michael.Scott@nrc.gov>
Tracking Status: None
"Pelton, David" <David.Pelton@nrc.gov>
Tracking Status: None
"Lorson, Raymond" <Raymond.Lorson@nrc.gov>
Tracking Status: None
"Krohn, Paul" <Paul.Krohn@nrc.gov>
Tracking Status: None
"Dentel, Glenn" <Glenn.Dentel@nrc.gov>
Tracking Status: None
"Gray, Mel" <Mel.Gray@nrc.gov>
Tracking Status: None
"McNamara, Nancy" <Nancy.McNamara@nrc.gov>
Tracking Status: None
"Tifft, Doug" <Doug.Tifft@nrc.gov>
Tracking Status: None

Post Office: HQPWMSMRS02.nrc.gov

Files	Size	Date & Time	
MESSAGE	658	8/16/2016 12:41:25 PM	
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Options

Priority: Standard
Return Notification: No
Reply Requested: No
Sensitivity: Normal
Expiration Date:
Recipients Received:



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

August 15, 2016

The Honorable Sean Patrick Maloney
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Maloney:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to your letter of June 17, 2016, in which you expressed concerns regarding restart of Indian Point Energy Center (Indian Point) Unit 2 and the need for a safety review of Indian Point Unit 3 in light of failed baffle-former bolts in Unit 2.

Entergy Nuclear Operations (Entergy) completed a root-cause analysis and took actions to address the degraded bolts before Indian Point Unit 2 restarted on June 14, 2016. After conducting our own independent review of Entergy's analysis and verifying the licensee's corrective actions, the NRC did not have an immediate safety concern that would have prevented the unit from restarting.

While baffle bolt failure is not a new or unknown phenomenon, the number of these failures found during the inspections at Indian Point 2 was beyond what the NRC would have expected. I want to update you on the actions taken to date at the site. Entergy performed ultrasonic testing on the reactor vessel internal bolts to look for degradation known to be caused by irradiation-assisted stress corrosion cracking. Entergy replaced all the bolts that were identified as flawed at Indian Point Unit 2 using bolts with material properties less susceptible to corrosion. No flaws were identified through ultrasonic testing of the remaining bolts. The NRC staff's independent assessment of this issue has included review of analyses performed by the original equipment vendor and past industry experience with such bolting replacements.

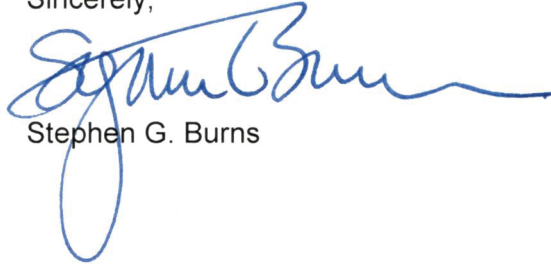
Regarding Indian Point Unit 3, Entergy has performed an evaluation to determine whether it is safe to continue operation of that reactor. Indian Point Unit 3's baffle bolts were exposed to less radiation than the bolts in Unit 2 in part because Unit 3 has a different operating history and less operating time than Unit 2. In addition, there are no current indications of loose parts or fuel leaks that would indicate significant problems with the baffle-former bolts in Indian Point Unit 3. The NRC is currently performing an independent review of the licensee's evaluation, but to date has not identified an immediate safety concern. Nevertheless, Entergy has since stated that it will perform an ultrasonic examination of Unit 3 bolts in the spring 2017 refueling outage, rather than the spring 2019 refueling outage, as originally planned.

The Commission shares your interest in ensuring that the Indian Point units operate in a manner that protects public health and safety. Please be assured that the NRC will continue

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to closely monitor this situation, remain alert to potential generic implications, and evaluate the need for further regulatory action. If you have any questions, please contact me or Eugene Dacus, Director of the Office of Congressional Affairs, at (301) 415-1776.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stephen G. Burns", with a large, stylized loop at the bottom.

Stephen G. Burns

SEAN PATRICK MALONEY
18TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

1529 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-5441

123 GRAND ST., 2ND FLOOR
NEWBURGH, NY 12550
(845) 561-1259

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3218

June 17, 2016

The Honorable Stephen G. Burns
Chairman of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Dear Chairman Burns,

I write regarding my strong concern with restarting operations at Indian Point Unit 2 without having completed a comprehensive root cause analysis that includes metallurgical testing of the failed baffle bolts. Because of the seriousness of the situation, I urge you to keep unit 2 offline until such an analysis can be completed. Additionally, I strongly encourage you to immediately conduct a safety review to determine the status of baffle bolts at Indian Point Unit 3.

As you know, 227 of the 832 baffle bolts that hold the inner walls of the Indian Point Unit 2 core together were found to be missing or damaged. The plant's owner, Entergy, in a report to the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission admitted this to be a condition that significantly degrades plant safety.

The situation is extremely serious and represents a nearly unprecedented public safety hazard for an American nuclear facility. Leading experts have warned that degraded baffle bolts could result in a lack of structural stability in the reactor. This could lead to a major, catastrophic disaster that we must do all we can to prevent.

This is just the most recent episode in over a decade of dangerous activity at Indian Point, from security lapses to serious safety violations. Simply put, there is no margin for error. While operational, Indian Point must be held to the absolute highest safety standards. That's why a comprehensive root cause analysis of Unit 2 is so important, as is a safety review of Unit 3. The millions of people living and working within miles of the plant deserve nothing less.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this extremely urgent and important matter.



Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress

Originating Office: EDO
Ref: CORR-16-0072
Commission Correspondence

SGB – Approved w/edits
KLS – Approved w/edits
JMB – Approved w/edits

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OFFICE	SECY	OCA	OCM/SGB	OCM/SGB	OCM/SGB
NAME	PCrayer	EDacus	DWerkheiser	SBaggett	SBurns
DATE	08/15/16	08/15/16	08/15/16	08/15/16	08/15/16

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