May 29, 2003

Mr. Michael R. Kansler, President Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. 440 Hamilton Avenue White Plains, NY 10601

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING REQUEST FOR RELAXATION FROM ORDER ESTABLISHING INTERIM INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS OF REACTOR VESSEL HEADS, INDIAN POINT NUCLEAR GENERATING UNIT NO. 3 (TAC NO. MB8163)

Dear Mr. Kansler:

In a letter dated March 27, 2003, Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. (ENO) requested a relaxation from certain requirements in an Order issued by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on February 11, 2003 (EA-03-009). Specifically, ENO requested a relaxation for Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit No. 3 from the inspection coverage when performing ultrasonic testing of each reactor vessel head penetration nozzle from 2 inches above the J-groove weld to the bottom of the nozzle, as specified in Section IV.C(2)(b)(i) of the Order.

The NRC staff is reviewing the information provided in the March 27 submittal and has determined that additional information is needed to complete its review. The specific questions are found in the enclosed request for additional information (RAI). During a telephone call on May 20, 2003, the ENO staff indicated that a response to the RAI would be provided within 90 days.

If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me.

Sincerely,

/RA/

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

Docket No. 50-286

Enclosure: RAI

cc w/encl: See next page

Mr. Michael R. Kansler, President Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. 440 Hamilton Avenue White Plains, NY 10601

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING REQUEST FOR RELAXATION FROM ORDER ESTABLISHING INTERIM INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS OF REACTOR VESSEL HEADS, INDIAN POINT NUCLEAR GENERATING UNIT NO. 3 (TAC NO. MB8163)

Dear Mr. Kansler:

In a letter dated March 27, 2003, Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. (ENO) requested a relaxation from certain requirements in an Order issued by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on February 11, 2003 (EA-03-009). Specifically, ENO requested a relaxation for Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit No. 3 from the inspection coverage when performing ultrasonic testing of each reactor vessel head penetration nozzle from 2 inches above the J-groove weld to the bottom of the nozzle, as specified in Section IV.C(2)(b)(i) of the Order.

The NRC staff is reviewing the information provided in the March 27 submittal and has determined that additional information is needed to complete its review. The specific questions are found in the enclosed request for additional information (RAI). During a telephone call on May 20, 2003, the ENO staff indicated that a response to the RAI would be provided within 90 days.

If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me.

Sincerely,

/RA/

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

Docket No. 50-224 and 50-286Enclosure: RAIcc w/encl: See next pageDISTRIBUTIONPUBLICR. LauferPDI-1 ReadingP. MilanoC. HoldenT. Chan

S. LittleS. BloomP. Eselgroth, RGN-IOGCE. ReicheltACRS

Accession Number: ML031490691

OFFICE	PDI-1:PM	PDI-1:LA	EMCB:SC	PDI-1:SC	
NAME	PMilano	SLittle	TChan	RLaufer	
DATE	5/21/03	5/22/03	5/22/03	5/28/03	

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

cc:

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

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

Mr. Fred Dacimo Vice President - Operations Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit 3 295 Broadway, Suite 1 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. 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 - Licensing Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. 440 Hamilton Avenue White Plains, NY 10601

Ms. Charlene Faison

Licensing Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. 440 Hamilton Avenue White Plains, NY 10601

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

Mr. James Comiotes Director, Nuclear Safety Assurance Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit 3 295 Broadway, Suite 3 P.O. Box 308 Buchanan, NY 10511-0308

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

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

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

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

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

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 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

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

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

Mr. 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

REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

REGARDING RELAXATION FROM NRC ORDER EA-03-009

INDIAN POINT NUCLEAR GENERATING UNIT NO. 3 (IP3)

DOCKET NO. 50-286

In a letter dated March 27, 2003, Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. (the licensee) requested relaxation from the performing ultrasonic testing (UT) of each reactor pressure vessel head penetration nozzle (i.e., nozzle base material), from 2 inches above the J-groove weld to the bottom of the nozzle. The licensee stated that the bottom 0.75 inch of the nozzle is threaded and designed to accommodate the installation of guide funnels. Due to the threads, the licensee stated that meaningful UT test data cannot be obtained in this region, due to dispersion of the UT signal. The licensee proposes to perform UT from 2 inches above the J-groove the J-groove weld to the top of the threaded region, which is approximately 0.75 inch above the bottom of the nozzle.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has the following questions regarding the information provided in the relaxation request:

1. The licensee stated that a structural evaluation was performed for the IP3 nozzles.

Provide the applicable technical data (i.e., operating stress levels, crack growth analysis, hoop stresses, etc.) which supports the conclusion that the area in the threaded region is insignificant.

2. The licensee stated that if cracking is detected above the threaded region, and extends into the threaded area, other nondestructive examination (NDE) methods would be used to determine the extent of cracking.

Identify the particular NDE methods that would be utilized, and provide the justification why this additional NDE would not be proposed/performed as an alternative to the requirements in the Order.