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NRC DENIES ENTERGY'S REQUEST FOR A SECOND DEADLINE EXTENSION FOR AN ORDER REQUIRING SIREN BACK-UP POWER

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission has denied a request from Entergy to extend for a second time the deadline to meet an Order requiring the installation of back-up power for the alert and notification system at the Indian Point Energy Center. The Order's original deadline was Jan. 30, which the NRC extended to April 15. Entergy requested a new deadline of August 31.

The NRC letter to Entergy said that the company "has not demonstrated good cause" in their extension request and that the NRC "will consider action under the NRC's Enforcement Policy." The letter also outlined that the NRC will continue enhanced oversight of the existing system.

Indian Point's existing alert and notification system has been maintained and tested, and remains operable, providing reasonable assurance that the public would be alerted in the event of a radiological emergency at the plant.

Entergy officials told the NRC that the extension request was needed in light of unexpected results of tests on the new sirens. In its letter, Entergy committed to determine the causes of the performance failure of the new sirens and to address other issues that had been raised, including the loudness of the sirens in some locations, and stakeholder concerns about training and other usability issues.

The Order was issued to fulfill a 2005 Energy Policy Act provision that directed the NRC to require nuclear power plants located within certain population densities to have back-up power for their emergency notification systems, including sirens. Indian Point is the only nuclear plant that fell within the requirement.

The NRC letter to Entergy denying a second extension will be posted on this page:
<http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/plant-specific-items/indian-point-issues.html>.

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