



NRC NEWS

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NRC TO REVIEW ENERGENCY REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF DEADLINE FOR MEETING ENERGY POLICY ACT REQUIREMENTS

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission has received Entergy's request for an extension of the Jan. 30, 2007, deadline imposed by the NRC to meet requirements of the 2005 Energy Policy Act at its Indian Point Energy Center in Buchanan, N.Y. Agency staff will evaluate the request and provide a decision as rapidly as possible.

The Energy Policy Act included a provision directing 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.

In January 2006, the NRC issued a confirmatory Order requiring Entergy to install back-up power for its entire alert and notification system. The Order required completion by Jan. 30, 2007. The NRC Order allows Entergy to request relaxation of specific aspects of the Order.

In its extension request, Entergy states that "considerable progress" has been made toward completing the new siren system. However, Entergy indicated that one tower is unable to support the addition of the necessary antennae and will need modifications to support the new equipment. Entergy also stated that additional testing of the system and training of emergency service workers will be needed once work is completed on the final tower. In addition, Entergy said the need to obtain additional local permits for the new-siren locations also contributed to the delay. Entergy said these issues will prevent the work from being completed by the Order's deadline. Entergy has asked for an extension until April 15, 2007. Entergy noted in the extension request that they had discussed the request with surrounding counties.

Indian Point's existing alert and notification system is unaffected by the new system and remains in place to notify the public, if necessary.

"We will carefully evaluate this request to ensure that Entergy has taken reasonable steps to complete installation and has provided good cause for any relaxation of the Order," said Jim Dyer, Director of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

The Entergy extension request is posted on this page:
<http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/plant-specific-items/indian-point-issues.html> .

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