



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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No. 07-010

January 23, 2007

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NRC GRANTS ENTERGY'S REQUEST FOR EXTENDED DEADLINE FOR MEETING ORDER RELATED TO SIREN BACK-UP POWER

After careful review, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission has granted Entergy's request for an extension of the deadline for completing a project at the Indian Point Energy Center that was required by NRC Order to meet specifications in the 2005 Energy Policy Act. Entergy now has until April 15 to complete installation of back-up power for its alert and notification system, as originally outlined in a January 2006 confirmatory Order. The original Order set a January 30, 2007, deadline for compliance.

The NRC determined that Entergy provided good cause for the extension, including delays that were unanticipated, and had made reasonable and appropriate attempts to resolve these issues within the time initially provided in the Order.

In its extension request, Entergy stated that "considerable progress" has been made toward completing the work, but cited issues with a tower needed to support additional equipment, testing of the system, training of emergency service workers and obtaining additional local permits for the new siren locations as reasons for the extension request. Entergy had 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 carefully evaluated this request and believe that Entergy took reasonable steps to complete installation of the system and has provided good cause for relaxation of the Order deadline," said Jim Dyer, Director of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

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.

The Entergy extension request and the NRC approval letter are posted on this page:
<http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/plant-specific-items/indian-point-issues.html> .

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