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NRC Issues Order Prohibiting Former Indian Point Manager From Participating in Licensed Activities For One Year

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is issuing an order barring a former chemistry manager at the Indian Point nuclear power plant from taking part in NRC-licensed activities for one year. The enforcement action against Daniel Wilson is based on his deliberate fabrication of testing information for fuel oil intended for use in the plant's emergency diesel generators.

The NRC is also issuing a Severity Level III Notice of Violation to Entergy, which owns and operates Indian Point, located in Buchanan (Westchester County), N.Y. In the notice, the NRC identifies two violations by the company, including 1) operating Unit 2 and 3 without being in compliance with technical specifications for the fuel oil; and 2) the failure of its former chemistry manager to initiate a condition report, or otherwise notify the plant's operations department, such that Entergy could promptly inform the NRC of the condition.

"Because Entergy independently identified this issue and has taken timely and comprehensive corrective actions, the NRC is not issuing a civil penalty to the company over this matter," NRC Region I Administrator Bill Dean said. "However, the enforcement action against Daniel Wilson and the Notice of Violation issued to the company underscore the need for all nuclear power plant employees to act in a manner consistent with their obligation to fully and faithfully perform their duties at all times."

The NRC's enforcement action against Wilson took into consideration that he was prosecuted by the U.S. Department of Justice, convicted of a felony, sentenced to 18 months of probation and fined \$500. He was sentenced in January.

The sentence was based on an investigation by the NRC Office of Investigations that found that Wilson deliberately failed in February 2012 to check on the amount of particulate matter in the emergency generator diesel fuel. Further, he then created records indicating he had conducted the tests and that fuel met NRC requirements. (The emergency diesel generators serve an important safety function at nuclear power plants as they are used to power safety systems in the event that the power from the grid is interrupted.)

Despite the negligence, subsequent NRC reviews determined the generators still would have been able to perform their function due to the conservative nature of the particulate matter limits and because of filters used to purify the fuel.

Wilson would have to notify the NRC prior to seeking employment involving activities licensed by the agency.