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NRC Approves License Transfer for Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has approved the transfer of the Indian Point nuclear power plant licenses from Entergy Nuclear Operations to Holtec International, as owner, and Holtec Decommissioning International as decommissioning operator. Holtec and HDI have announced that they intend to expedite the decommissioning and dismantling of the power plant.

Indian Point's three pressurized-water reactors are located in Buchanan, N.Y., approximately 24 miles north of New York City. Units 1 and 2 are permanently shut down; Unit 3 is scheduled to permanently shut down in April 2021. The license transfer also includes the plant's dry cask spent fuel storage installation.

The NRC order approving the license transfer is effective immediately, but the license transfer will not be finalized until after Unit 3's permanent shutdown and the completion of the transaction between Entergy, Holtec and HDI. At that point, the NRC will amend Indian Point's licenses to reflect the completion of the transfer. Additionally, several hearing requests are currently pending before the Commission. The transfer approval is subject to the Commission's authority to rescind, modify, or condition the transfer based on the outcome of any subsequent hearing on the application.

In reviewing the license transfer application, the NRC staff considered the Holtec and HDI technical and financial qualifications, the adequacy of the Indian Point decommissioning trust funds to complete the radiological decommissioning of the plant, and the adequacy of plans to manage the onsite storage of spent nuclear fuel until it can be removed for storage or disposal elsewhere. The NRC staff concluded that Holtec and HDI met the regulatory, legal, technical and financial requirements necessary to qualify as licensees.

The NRC order approving the transfer was issued Nov. 23. The order and other documents related to the review are available through the NRC's ADAMS online documents database at ML20297A321.