

March 28, 2000

The Honorable John E. Sweeney
Member, United States
House of Representatives
285 Broadway
Saratoga Springs, New York 12866

Dear Congressman Sweeney:

I am responding to your letter of March 1, 2000, in which you forwarded concerns raised by one of your constituents regarding the steam generator tube failure at Consolidated Edison Company's (ConEd) Indian Point 2 (IP2) plant.

Shortly after the event, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) initiated two separate reviews of this matter. The NRC sent a special inspection team, called an Augmented Inspection Team, or AIT, to IP2 to determine what happened prior to, during, and following the February 15, 2000, steam generator tube failure. The AIT will provide its initial findings at an exit meeting with ConEd on March 29, 2000, that will be open to public observation. We will provide a copy of the AIT report to you as soon as it is completed.

In addition to the AIT, steam generator specialists are conducting a review of the nature and cause of the tube failure itself. This review will provide a detailed assessment of ConEd's actions to properly maintain steam generator tube integrity, as well as assess the potential generic nature of any problems that are discovered during these reviews. Also, an independent review of recent NRC licensing actions related to the IP2 steam generators will be performed. We will provide you information about the reviews when completed. Further, this information will be made available to the public on the NRC Web site (www.nrc.gov/NRC/REACTOR/IP/index.html).

To help address the concerns of the local community, the NRC met several times with the public and public officials. NRC representatives have attended county legislative meetings in both Westchester and Rockland counties to answer questions about this event. The NRC met with ConEd on March 1 to discuss the inspection of the IP2 steam generators and responded to questions raised by the public. On March 14, we held a public meeting at the New York State Armory in Peekskill, New York, to provide preliminary information on this event and to answer questions. As mentioned above, the AIT exit meeting with ConEd on March 29, 2000, will take

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place at the IP2 site and will be open to public observation. When completed, the AIT report will be posted on the NRC web site. The web site also contains information regarding previous steam generator tube failures at U.S. nuclear power plants.

If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to call me.

Sincerely,

/RA/

William D. Travers
Executive Director
for Operations

cc: New York State Assemblyman Robert D'Andrea

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