

April 4, 2000

The Honorable Michael P. Forbes
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-3201

Dear Congressman Forbes:

I am responding to your letter of March 14, 2000, in which you forwarded concerns raised by your constituent, Scott Cullen, regarding the February 15, 2000, steam generator tube failure at Consolidated Edison Company's (ConEd) Indian Point 2 (IP2) plant.

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. This review will include an assessment of the operator's response to the event and address issues related to the radioactive release. I believe that the issues raised by Mr. Cullen, will be addressed in the report of the AIT. The AIT conducted an exit meeting with ConEd on March 29, 2000, that was 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, took place at the IP2 site and was 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.

The Honorable Michael P. Forbes

If you have any additional questions in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

/RA/

William D. Travers
Executive Director for Operations

The Honorable Michael P. Forbes

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