

**United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Public Affairs, Region I
475 Allendale Road King of Prussia, PA 19406
Fax: 610/337-5241
Internet: dps@nrc.gov or nas@nrc.gov**

I-98-50

May 1, 1998

Contact: Diane Screnci (610/337-5330) FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Neil A. Sheehan (610/337-5331)

NRC, UTILITY TO DISCUSS APPARENT VIOLATIONS AT INDIAN POINT 2

Several apparent violations of Nuclear Regulatory Commission requirements at the Indian Point 2 nuclear power plant will be the subject of a meeting on Wednesday, May 6, between agency staff and the operators of the facility. Consolidated Edison Company of New York owns and operates the pressurized-water reactor, located on the Hudson River in Buchanan, N.Y.

The predecisional enforcement conference will begin at 9:30 a.m. in the Public Meeting Room at the NRC Region 1 office in King of Prussia, Pa. It will be open to the public for observation.

One of the apparent violations involves a failure by Consolidated Edison to take prompt and effective action to correct problems with certain electrical circuit breakers despite recurring instances over time in which they failed to properly operate. The breakers are used to supply electric power to safety-related and non-safety-related equipment. Eventually, the company decided to shut down the unit voluntarily and, following a breaker failure last October, focused adequate attention on finding a permanent resolution for the problems.

Another apparent violation pertains to a failure to address in a timely manner degraded conditions affecting the hydrogen recombiner and post-accident containment venting systems. Hydrogen recombiners are the primary means of reducing concentrations of hydrogen in the containment building, the protective concrete structure surrounding the reactor, following an accident; the devices heat the air to the point where hydrogen and oxygen recombine to form water. In the event the hydrogen recombiners are unavailable, the post-accident containment venting system would be used to remove hydrogen from the containment building.

A third apparent violation that will be discussed deals with an inadequate procedure for the operation of the post-accident containment venting system.

The decision to hold a predecisional enforcement conference does not mean that the NRC has determined a violation has occurred or that enforcement action will be taken. Rather, the purpose is to discuss apparent violations, their causes and safety significance; to provide the licensee with an opportunity to point out any errors that may have been made in the NRC inspection report; and to enable the licensee to outline its proposed corrective action.

No decision on the apparent violations will be made at this conference. That decision will be made by NRC officials at a later time.

#