COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES: LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION

FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING AND RELATED PROGRAMS

VICE CHAIR, DEMOCRATIC POLICY COMMITTEE

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Nita M. Lowey Congress of the United States

18th District, New York March 22, 2000

Dr. Richard A. Meserve Chairman Nuclear Regulatory Commission 11555 Rockville Pike Mail Stop O16C1 Rockville, MD 20855

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing out of concern about the status of Indian Point 2 nuclear power facility. I believe the owners and regulators of the facility have a responsibility to prevent the reopening of Indian Point 2 until several conditions are met to protect the health and safety of the residents of the surrounding communities.

As you know, the following conditions have been raised by several scientific and community advocacy organizations including the Pace Law School Energy Project, the Public Citizen's Critical Mass Energy Project, and the Union of Concerned Scientists. I join these organizations in urging that the plant remain closed until:

- all four steam generators are replaced;
- Dr. Joram Hopenfeld's on-going safety concerns regarding the NRC's policies and procedures to a.) permit plants to operate with damaged steam generator tubes; b.) use the Westinghouse methodology to test the tubes; and c.) appoint a panel of NRC experts, instead of an independent panel, to evaluate his objections, are fully addressed and resolved; and
- potassium iodide (KI) tablets are distributed to residents and businesses within the 10-mile emergency planning zone and are stockpiled in the vicinity of the Indian Point 2 facility.

I believe that implementation of these three recommendations <u>before</u> Indian Point 2 is reopened will help maintain public health and safety while reviewing the efficiency and effectiveness of the facility. In addition, I request a public meeting in Westchester County to discuss these three recommendations and other public concerns.

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SUNY MAFITIME ACADEMY AT FOR" SCHUYLER BRONX, NY 10465 (718) 829-8027 (BY APPOINTMENT) Page 2 March 20, 2000

I appreciate your attention to this matter, and I look forward to a response from your office regarding these recommendations. Please send all correspondence to my White Plains District Office. Thank you again for your cooperation.

Sincerely.

Nita M. Lowey

Member of Congress

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