

SUE W. KELLY
19th District, New York

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ASSISTANT MAJORITY WHIP

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3219

Public Hearing
1127 Longwood Drive, Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-5441

21 Old Main Street, Room #205
Trenton, New York 12624
(518) 897-9200

116 Harris Court Drive
Mt. Kisco, New York 10549
(914) 241-6340

March 24, 2000

Chairman Richard A. Meserve
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Chairman Meserve:

The incident at Indian Point 2 nuclear power plant on February 15 of this year which resulted in the declaration of an emergency alert remains a serious concern for those of us who live in communities surrounding the facility.

The release this week of a recent report from your Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research (RES) has served to only further undermine public confidence in the plant. To hear that both Consolidated Edison (ConEd) and the NRC may have failed to devote the level of attention and energy that should be expected when making decisions related to the safety of operations at a facility is profoundly distressing.

According to Thursday's report, a recent assessment by Consolidated Edison regarding signs of degradation in their generators was found to be inadequate, as was the NRC review of ConEd's assessment. The possibility that these failures may have contributed to the February incident, and may continue to pose a threat to the overall safety of the plant, demand that the issues raised in the RES memorandum be fully addressed in a timely fashion.

I would request at this time a meeting with you or other top officials in your agency at the earliest possible time for the purpose of gaining a full explanation as to how exactly the circumstances specified in the report were allowed to happen and how they affected the safety of the facility's operations. Details as to what actions will be taken to prevent similar errors from being made in the future should be included in any such explanation. Additionally, I request that requiring the installation of the newer steam generators currently on-site at Indian Point 2 be made a top priority as your agency continues to work on this important matter.

Your timely response to this request is appreciated.

Sincerely,


Sue W. Kelly
Member of Congress