

May 18, 2000

Ms. Frances C. Mullin
Office of Town Clerk
Town of Stony Point
74 East Main Street
Stony Point, NY 10980-1698

Dear Ms. Mullin:

I am responding to your letter of April 13, 2000, concerning the steam generator tube failure at Indian Point 2 (IP2) on February 15, 2000. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) appreciates your concerns and we are taking actions to fully assess the IP2 steam generators.

The event involved a steam generator tube failure that resulted in an initial primary (radioactive) side to secondary (non-radioactive) side leak of reactor coolant of approximately 146 gallons per minute, and required an "Alert" declaration (the second level of emergency action in the NRC-required emergency response plan). The leak did result in a minor radiological release to the environment that was well within regulatory limits. No radioactivity was measured off site above normal background levels, and the event did not impact the public health and safety.

The NRC sets minimum requirements that must be met by the licensee for IP2, Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc. (Con Ed), to ensure protection of public health and safety. The NRC is overseeing Con Ed's steam generator tube inspections, repairs, and other corrective actions to ensure these public health and safety requirements are met. The plant will not restart before Con Ed demonstrates that the NRC's steam generator requirements have been met and the NRC specifically approves restart.

With respect to your request regarding the installation of the new steam generators currently on-site at IP2, the Union of Concerned Scientists has submitted a petition to the NRC requesting the steam generators to be replaced. In general, a plant operator can meet NRC requirements on steam generator tube leakage through a number of methods, including by repairing or plugging defective tubes. However, the NRC is carefully reviewing the petitioner's request that NRC require replacement of the steam generators. The NRC decision on this

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request will be made available to the public when it is completed. In addition, a public meeting will be held in the vicinity of the plant to discuss the staff's evaluation of the Indian Point 2 steam generators prior to restart.

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

Sincerely,

/RA

Suzanne C. Black, Deputy Director
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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Sincerely,

/RA/

Suzanne C. Black, Deputy Director
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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