



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

May 18, 2000

Ms. Irene Zola
545 West 111th St., Apt. 3B
New York, NY 10025

Dear Ms. Zola:

I am responding to your March 2, 2000, e-mail to President Clinton in which you requested that the Indian Point nuclear reactors be shut down. In your note you expressed concern about the continued operation of the Indian Point Nuclear Station and about the safety of nuclear power in general.

There are two operating nuclear reactors at the Indian Point site: Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit No. 2 (IP2) is owned and operated by the Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc., and Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit No. 3 (IP3) is owned and operated by the Power Authority of the State of New York. Senior NRC managers regularly conduct assessments of the performance of every operating commercial nuclear power plant in the country in order to ensure public health and safety. Assessments are based on input from a series of scheduled inspections including inspections conducted by the resident inspectors assigned to each plant. In our most recent assessment of IP2, dated March 31, 2000, we noted that overall reactor safety performance met minimum standards. We also noted, however, that there were some deficiencies that were of substantial safety significance. As a result of this assessment, the NRC has allocated additional inspection resources to IP2.

In our most recent assessment of IP3, dated March 31, 2000, we noted some performance issues and we allocated additional inspection resources to IP3 so that we could better understand these issues. We also noted that the owner continued to operate the plant in a safe manner. We will continue to monitor and assess the performance of both plants.

In regard to your concern about the risks associated with these plants, each owner has performed probabilistic risk assessments (PRAs) for its respective plant. These PRAs estimate the risk of a major accident at the plants by estimating the frequency of core damage and the frequency of a large early radioactive release. The NRC staff has reviewed these PRAs and has determined that between now and the time the licenses for IP2 and IP3 expire in 2013 and 2105, respectively, the chance of an accident involving core damage at either plant is extremely low.

I trust this letter answers your concerns. If you have any other questions, please contact the Project Manager, Jefferey Harold, at (301) 415-1421.

Sincerely,

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

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/RA/

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

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