

BENJAMIN A. GILMAN
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House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3220**

**REPUBLICAN POLICY
COMMITTEE**

April 12th, 2000

Richard A. Meserve
Chairman
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
016C-1
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Chairman Meserve:

I am contacting you to concerning the Indian Point II nuclear power plant in Buchanan, New York.

On the evening of Tuesday, February 16th, 2000, a coolant pipe at Indian Point II ruptured, spewing radioactive water inside the plant. In response to the incident, Consolidated Edison (ConEd), the owner of the plant, and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) are presently conducting a number of investigations and, gratefully, the NRC has held a number of public meetings in New York concerning Indian Point II.

Following a briefing by NRC representatives, I recently met with Mr. Eugene McGrath, Chairman of the Board of ConEd, to discuss the incident and the steps being taken to ensure no further accidents occur at Indian Point II. Furthermore, on April 7th, I attended the meeting before the NRC Petition Review Board to listen to the concerns of the constituents of the Hudson Valley.

After reviewing the information provided to me during the aforementioned meetings, I am greatly concerned about the safety and welfare of the communities throughout our Hudson region. Due to improper oversight and maintenance at the facility, Indian Point II has had two incidents in a six month period. Although ConEd purchased new steam generators in 1989, they have chosen to plug damaged tubes rather than replace the old Westinghouse generators.

Only thirty-five miles from New York City and in the heart of our Hudson Valley, the proper maintenance of Indian Point II is vital to the safety and welfare of millions of citizens. The only nuclear power reactor in the United States still operating with Westinghouse Model 44 steam generators with Alloy 6000 tubes, I believe it is time for ConEd to install new generators.

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Accordingly, although I appreciate and support the present investigations and the steps the NRC and ConEd are taking to ensure safety at Indian Point, I must respectfully request that the NRC issue an order to Consolidated Edison Company of New York preventing the restart of Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unity 2 until all four steam generators are replaced.

Thank you for your time and assistance with this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ben Gilman", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

BENJAMIN A. GILMAN
Member of Congress