

June 23, 2000

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Schumer:

I am writing in response to your letter of June 2, 2000, concerning Indian Point 2 Nuclear Power Station. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) shares your concern about events at the plant and recognizes the importance of continued close attention to Consolidated Edison's (ConEd's) corrective actions for performance problems.

The NRC is conducting a comprehensive review of ConEd's proposal to startup and operate the plant with the existing steam generators for a limited period of time. NRC experts from the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation and NRC Region I have been fully engaged with ConEd steam generator inspections since shortly after the February 2000 event. This effort has involved direct observation of steam generator inspections on-site and discussions with ConEd and Westinghouse personnel regarding inspection results to resolve issues related to steam generator tube integrity. In accordance with its operating license, ConEd must obtain NRC approval prior to plant startup. I want to assure you that the NRC will not approve plant startup unless we are able to conclude that continued operation of the plant does not pose an undue risk to public health and safety.

The NRC has scheduled a public meeting on Sunday, June 25, 2000, to keep the local residents informed of developments regarding the facility. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 12:00 p.m. at the Cortlandt Town Hall. In this meeting, the NRC plans to outline ongoing assessment efforts related to Indian Point Unit 2, provide detailed information regarding our ongoing processes to review steam generator tube integrity, and provide an informational forum for questions regarding public health and safety. As you know, the NRC staff has been coordinating the scheduling of this meeting with your office.

Please do not hesitate to call me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

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Richard A. Meserve