

July 7, 2000

The Honorable Joseph I. Lieberman
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-0703

Dear Senator Lieberman:

I am responding to your letter of May 15, 2000, in which you forwarded two letters from your constituent, Ms. Lynn Pekkanen. In her letters, she expressed concerns with the operation of Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Unit 2, and about the steam generator tube failure that occurred on February 15, 2000, at Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit 2 (IP2).

Ms. Pekkanen's letter expressed concerns in general terms, and on Monday, June 12, 2000, a member of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff contacted her directly to better understand her specific concerns. The NRC staff understands her concerns were based on articles she has read in the New London Day, a local newspaper. Specifically, she was concerned with the past operating history of the Millstone facility, the planned merger of Consolidated Edison and Northeast Utilities, and the IP2 steam generator tube failure as it relates to aging nuclear power plants in the State of Connecticut. In the telephone conversation, we discussed the current operating history of Millstone and the agency's view of their recent performance, the agency's response to the IP2 steam generator tube failure, and the establishment of the risk-informed, performance-based maintenance rule to ensure that licensees monitor the condition of safety equipment over the life of a plant. Ms. Pekkanen expressed her appreciation for our responsiveness and appeared satisfied with the information she received during the conversation.

Additional information on the status of operating nuclear power plants in the United States is located on the NRC web page <http://www.nrc.gov>, including the IP2 steam generator tube failure.

I trust that this response adequately addresses your request. If you have any additional questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

/RA/

William D. Travers
Executive Director
for Operations

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