

July 13, 2000

The Honorable Sandra R. Galef
New York State Assembly
Legislative Office Building, Room 540
Albany, New York 12248

Dear Assemblywoman Galef:

I am replying to your letters of May 19, 2000, and June 27, 2000, in which you repeat your request that the steam generators at Indian Point 2 be replaced. You based this request on the fact that prior repairs of the current steam generators did not prevent the tube failure from occurring.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) shares your concern about events at the plant and recognizes the importance of our continued close attention to Consolidated Edison's (ConEd's) corrective actions for performance problems. The NRC is now conducting a comprehensive review of ConEd's proposal to allow plant startup and operation for a limited period of time with the existing steam generators. In accordance with its operating license, ConEd must obtain NRC's approval before plant startup.

The NRC staff has been extensively involved with steam generator tube integrity activities since the February 2000 event. This involvement has included direct observation of steam generator inspections performed by ConEd and detailed review of inspection data and results as they relate to steam generator tube integrity. Moreover, the staff's review will include consideration of the reasons that past inspections did not identify the defect that caused the February 15, 2000 event. NRC approval of continued operation of the plant with the existing steam generators will not occur unless we conclude that operation with these generators will adequately protect public health and safety.

I am pleased that you attended the public meeting on June 25 and stated your views on developments at Indian Point 2. I hope that the meeting served the purpose of explaining to the public the status of NRC's review of Indian Point 2 activities and issues, including steam generator integrity. I know we benefitted from receiving public comments.

Thank you for your concern in this matter.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Nils J. Diaz
Acting Chairman