

July 19, 2000

Mr. Jack Mallory
340 Milltown Road
Brewster, NY 10509

Dear Mr. Mallory:

I am writing in response to your letter of June 8, 2000, concerning the Indian Point 2 Nuclear Power Station. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) shares your concern about the recent events at the station, in particular, the integrity of the unit's steam generators and their continued service life, and we recognize the importance of ensuring the safety of this nuclear facility.

The NRC is conducting a comprehensive review of ConEd's proposal to startup and operate the plant with the existing steam generators. Since shortly after the February 2000 tube failure event, NRC inspectors from Region I and technical experts from the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation have been involved in direct observation of steam generator inspections performed by ConEd, and detailed reviews of inspection results 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 continued operation with the existing steam generators unless we conclude that these generators meet technical standards, and therefore, pose no undue risk to public health and safety.

Thank you for informing us of your views and insights from your U.S. Navy experience. If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Peter Eselgroth, Chief, Projects Branch 2, (610) 337-5234, if you have any further comments or questions.

Sincerely,

/RA/

A. Randolph Blough, Director,
Division of Reactor Projects

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