

July 19, 2000

Ms. Valerie Carlisle
83 Mountain Road
Pleasant Valley, NY 12569

Dear Ms. Carlisle:

I am writing in response to your letter of June 18, 2000, concerning the Indian Point 2 Nuclear Power Station. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) shares your concern about the recent events at the station and recognizes the importance of ensuring the safety of this nuclear facility.

The NRC is conducting a comprehensive review of Consolidated Edison's (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 plant startup unless we conclude that continued operation with the existing steam generators poses no undue risk to public health and safety.

Indian Point 2 has been classified by the NRC as an agency-focus plant because of past performance issues. In that vein, the NRC will direct heightened attention to Indian Point 2 including inspection and oversight to further understand the results of Con Ed's assessment of their progress towards improvement, to review the status of the licensee's progress and to assess the planned actions regarding completion of their improvement programs.

Thank you for informing us of your views and please do not hesitate to contact Peter Eselgroth, Chief, Projects Branch 2, (610) 337-5234, if you have any further questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A. Randolph Blough, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

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