

October 23, 2000

The Honorable Benjamin A. Gilman  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Gilman:

I am responding to your letter of September 7, 2000, concerning the Commission's oversight of Indian Point 2 (IP2). Specifically, you inquired about the relation between the oversight of IP2 and the recent audit report by the NRC Inspector General (OIG) entitled, "Special Evaluation of the Role and Structure of NRC's Executive Council." The OIG report on the NRC's Executive Council (EC) concluded that alternative management strategies pertaining to the EC should be considered in order to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of agency operations.

The staff's actions to meet NRC's responsibilities to protect health and safety of the public were not at issue in the OIG report. Accordingly, the Commission believes that its mandated health and safety responsibilities are being successfully fulfilled. Although the Commission is currently reviewing the OIG report to determine whether changes are warranted, I do not expect that any changes involving the EC would affect the responsibility of the Executive Director for Operations to supervise the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation or would have an impact on activities associated with IP2. Moreover, if the Commission should determine that management changes are appropriate to respond to the OIG report, we will ensure that they do not detract from staff's capability to ensure adequate protection of public health and safety and the environment.

I appreciate your comments about the oversight of the situation at IP2. The staff is monitoring Consolidated Edison's activities and will continue to keep the Commission fully informed.

Please feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss the situation further.

Sincerely,

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Richard A. Meserve