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CITIZENS AWARENESS NETWORK

October 19, 2000

Mr. William D. Travers
Executive Director of Operations
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

RE: Request Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) revoke, pursuant to 10 C.F.R. 2.206 Consolidated Edison's license to operate. If NRC does not revoke Consolidated Edison's license to operate, Citizens Awareness Network (CAN) and Westchester Peoples Action Coalition (WESPAC) requests a license suspension. In either case; petitioners request a full investigation and an informal hearing regarding the October 4th spill. If NRC neither revokes or suspends Consolidated Edison's license to operate Indian Point Unit 2, CAN requests NRC to issue a confirmatory action letter.

I Introduction:

By this letter, CAN and WESPAC request, pursuant to 10 C.F.R. 2.206, that your agency take immediate action to revoke Consolidated Edison's (ConEd) license to operate the Indian Point unit 2 (IP2) nuclear reactor in Buchanan, NY. The reason for this request is that ConEd continues to display systemic incompetence in operating and maintaining the IP2 reactor, thereby threatening the health and safety of the public, their workers and the environment.

II Background:

We have been informed that a serious spill of radioactive waste occurred at the IP2 nuclear reactor Wednesday, October 4th, 2000. According to our source, during removal of a steam generator, the bottom plate or an inlet or outlet plate came off. Radioactive water flooded the containment building. Therefore there is a potential that workers engaged in steam generator removal activities were exposed. This information was conveyed through an anonymous phone call to a person CAN works with in New York. This spill, while it appears serious, was not reported in any Daily Event Report to the best of our knowledge. It also raises concerns regarding adequate worker training and systemic mismanagement at IP2.

Should this allegation prove accurate and NRC refuses to revoke ConEd'S license to operate the IP2 reactor, petitioners request that ConEd's license be suspended and steam generator replacement activities cease until such time as an investigation of this allegation is completed.

Should this allegation prove accurate then NRC should issue a confirmatory action letter halting steam generator replacement activities until ConEd's management provides assurance of maintenance of

appropriate standards and oversight and that staff can demonstrate strict adherence to and respect for radiological control regulations. The person or persons responsible for not reporting this spill immediately to the NRC should be removed from positions of responsibility.

The investigation of the spill at the IP2 reactor must include but not be limited to the following: What led to the plate coming off, how and when was the spill cleaned up, were workers examined for potential contamination, how many workers were exposed, what was the dose to the exposed workers and to any clean up team, and why was a DER absent?

Petitioners additionally request an informal public hearing on this petition to be held in the vicinity of the site. The basis for this request is that not only is ConEd not conducting its maintenance and operational activities in accordance with their technical specifications and license requirements and therefore is posing an undue risk to public health, but the public has a right to an explanation from both the corporation and the NRC as to how this radiological spill occurred.

III History:

On February 15, 2000, workers at IP2 manually shut down the reactor following indications of a steam generator tube failure in one of the plant's four steam generators. The last steam generator inspection was performed in June of 1997 during the cycle 13 refueling outage. Evidence now reveals that this inspection was inadequate. In addition, the analysis used by Con Edison to postpone NRC inspection of the steam generators was seriously flawed.

There were many problems experienced by operators during shut down. Because of the licensee's acceptance of working around rather than fixing problems, workers were required to *manually* shut down the reactor following indications of a steam generator tube failure in one of the plant's four steam generators. All of the examples cited below are clear indicators of long term, systemic mismanagement on the part of the utility.

The NRC's Augmented Inspection Team report of April 28 lists examples of longstanding degraded equipment deficiencies and lack of worker training that contributed to the shutdown of Indian Point 2. Included in the report states are:

- The loss of condenser vacuum was due to age related longstanding material degradation.
- Operators reported that the steam jet air ejectors steam supply pressure regulator had never worked properly.
- A material deficiency or a longstanding system design problem in the isolation valve seal water system was identified as the cause of the rapid draining of the tank inventory. The leakage *appeared similar to a 1997 problem.*
- The number 22 condenser vacuum pump was degraded prior to the Feb. 15th event due to thermal overload problems which *had not been repaired since being identified in 1997. Operation with this longstanding degraded equipment resulted in an additional radioactive release.*
- Reuter-Stokes off site telemeter radiation monitor system did not provide normal display output during the event. This appeared to be a repeated, longstanding degraded material condition which reduced the off site dose assessment capability.
- The steam jet air ejector steam supply pressure control valve was removed from service in 1998. The licensee decided not to pursue fixing this deficiency and the item was removed for the

operator work around list. The design change was not reflected in system operating procedures nor was it reflected in the abnormal operating instructions. Controlling the steam flow manually by using the bypass valve had become a normal operator work around.

IV ABOUT THE PETITIONERS:

Citizens Awareness Network is a non-profit, grassroots, volunteer organization with members located in proximity to the Yankee Rowe reactor in MA, the Vermont Yankee reactor in VT, the Haddam Neck and the Millstone reactors in CT, the Nine Mile Point, the Fitzpatrick, and the Indian Point reactors in NY state, and the Seabrook reactor in NH. We are concerned with the entire nuclear fuel cycle from the mining of uranium, the standard operation of nuclear power stations to the siting of rad-waste facilities. CAN represents citizens in Northeast, impacted communities that experience the economic, environmental, and health consequences of the uranium fuel cycle. Since 1991, CAN participated in a variety of NRC proceedings including, hearings on reactor embrittlement, decommissioning, and license termination, rulemakings, workshops, ASLBP proceedings, and adjudicatory hearings.

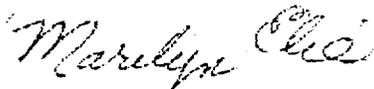
Westchester Peoples Action Coalition is a 26-year old peace, social justice and environmental organization which works on international, national, statewide and local issues. We represent the voice of over 5,000 residents of the Westchester County area. Based in White Plains, New York, WESPAC has been working to inform the public about the dangers of nuclear power in general and the Indian Point nuclear power plants in specific since our inception.

V CONCLUSION:

For the foregoing reasons, petitioners ask the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission to grant the petition by immediately commencing enforcement action, as detailed above, against ConEd.

Dated: This 10th Day of October 2000.

Respectfully Submitted:



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