

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: 01/18/01

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FINAL REPLY:

Senator Charles E. Schumer

TO:

Chairman Meserve

FOR SIGNATURE OF : ** PRI **

CRC NO: 01-0012

Chairman

DESC:

ROUTING:

Indian Point 2 Nuclear Generating Facility

Travers
Paperiello
Miraglia
Norry
Craig
Burns
Collins, NRR
Cyr, OGC

DATE: 01/05/01

ASSIGNED TO: CONTACT:

RI

Miller

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

Date Printed: Jan 04, 2001 15:16

PAPER NUMBER: LTR-01-0012 **LOGGING DATE:** 01/04/2001
ACTION OFFICE: EDO

AUTHOR: CHARLES SCHUMER
AFFILIATION: SEN
ADDRESSEE:
SUBJECT: INDIAN POINT 2 NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

ACTION: Signature of Chairman
DISTRIBUTION: RF, OCA TO ACK

LETTER DATE: 01/04/2001
ACKNOWLEDGED No
SPECIAL HANDLING:

NOTES: COMMISSION CORRESPONDENCE
FILE LOCATION: ADAMS
DATE DUE: 01/22/2001 **DATE SIGNED:**

EDO --G20010007

CHARLES E. SCHUMER
NEW YORK

COMMITTEES:
BANKING
JUDICIARY
RULES

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 4, 2001

Dr. Richard Meserve
Chairman
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Chairman Meserve:

I am writing to request that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) immediately pause the recently resumed operations at the Indian Point 2 (IP2) nuclear facility in Buchanan, N.Y. pending the results of a thorough inspection of the plant and the development of oversight protocols designed specifically for the IP2 facility.

As you know, the radioactive leaks which forced IP2 to shut down last February created enormous anxiety and fear in the plant's surrounding areas. As you know, the facility is the first nuclear power plant in the country to be given a high risk "red flag" designation and the NRC's Office of the Inspector General has impugned the agency's inspection efforts, going as far as saying that it hastily approved a poorly performed 1997 inspection by Con Edison that "missed the vast majority" of the problems that led to the February shutdown.

The public's concerns were given new life this week when new leaks accompanied ConEd's pre-restart testing. Despite these problems, ConEd proceeded with the restart during the early morning hours of January 3rd. In so doing, it provided local residents and officials with no advance notice of its plans and offered no assurances that further problems would not occur. I find it troubling that after close to a year of promises and efforts to ensure safety at IP2, the plant continues to be plagued with problems.

This latest incident at the facility coupled with IP2's troubling history make it necessary for both the NRC and ConEd to go the extra mile in restoring the public's trust and to ensure that the resumption of operations at IP2 will pose no threat to surrounding communities. To that end, I am asking that IP2 be closed until the NRC thoroughly inspects the facility's major components, operations and safety systems and develops a series of protocols tailored specifically for operations at the IP2 site. These protocols should include mandatory public briefings and a plan of follow-up inspections to be done by an independent panel which would be comprised of industry experts as well as local officials.

In the short-term, the NRC and ConEd should avail representatives to meet with local residents immediately to brief them on what has gone on at the plant this week. When it comes to the operation of a nuclear plant with a history of leaks and shut downs, the public's concerns must not just be pacified, they must be put to rest.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator