

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: 01/18/01

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FINAL REPLY:

Representative Benjamin A. Gilman

TO:

Chairman Meserve

FOR SIGNATURE OF :

** PRI **

CRC NO: 01-0011

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:

BENJAMIN A. GILMAN
20TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

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COMMITTEE
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CRIMINAL JUSTICE, DRUG POLICY
AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3220

January 4, 2000

Richard A. Meserve
Chairman
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
O16C-1
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Chairman Meserve,

I am contacting you concerning recent distressing reports in our regional newspapers that there has been additional incidents at the Indian Point 2 nuclear power plant in Buchanan, New York.

Foremost, I am extremely concerned with the inability of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to keep local and regional government officials, including my office, informed of ongoing events at Indian Point 2. As you are fully aware, this plant has been the subject of extensive scrutiny and its safety continues to be of considerable concern to the citizens of our Hudson Valley region. The inability of the NRC to expediently notify elected officials of events at Indian Point 2 reflects a lack of respect for the severity of this situation and creates further concern over the NRC's ability to provide appropriate oversight of this facility. Accordingly, in the future, I request timely notification of any and all incidents which occur at the Indian Point 2.

According to our regional newspapers, two separate incidents have occurred at Indian Point 2: one in a gasket on the non-radioactive feedwater pump and another involving a leaking safety valve in the radioactive pressurizer that serves the coolant water flowing through the nuclear reactor's core. I am interested in acquiring a detailed report on these incidents, their threat to public health, and why such incidents are continuing to occur at this plant. As you are aware, at my request, there is an ongoing study by the United States General Accounting Office (GAO) into Indian Point 2. I have made them aware of these incidents and have further requested their review of continuing problems as part of their report.

We have been working diligently for far too long to ensure that Indian Point 2 can be a safe and secure facility, which will meet the energy needs of New York's citizens. However, we are continually being reminded that this facility is not safe and that Consolidated Edison Company of New York is failing to maintain Indian Point 2 to acceptable standards. I do not feel it is appropriate for this plant to be active, while outstanding emergency preparedness and safety issues are still unresolved.

PLEASE REPLY TO:

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Furthermore, after reviewing the past year's events, I question the ability of the NRC to ensure proper oversight and the protection of public health. I am extremely interested in the findings of the GAO report and will share this information with my Congressional colleagues for review and consideration.

Thank you for your time and assistance.

Sincerely,



BENJAMIN A. GILMAN
Member of Congress