

March 8, 2001

The Honorable Sue W. Kelly
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Kelly:

I am responding to your letter of February 7, 2001, regarding concerns raised by a constituent to Consolidated Edison (ConEd) at the Indian Point 2 nuclear power station. In particular, you requested that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) investigate his concerns regarding the plant's reactor protection system.

The NRC staff has reviewed the documentation of reactor protection system discrepancies identified by this consultant and have also interviewed the individual. These discrepancies consist principally of differences between the installed reactor protection system and drawings describing that system. Our preliminary conclusion is that there is no immediate safety concern because these discrepancies do not affect the ability of the reactor protection system to perform its intended safety function. NRC review and inspection continue, and we will forward to your office the inspection report which documents our review, when issued.

I would like to point out that the kind of discrepancies identified by ConEd's consultant are examples of plant configuration control weaknesses that have been found in a number of NRC inspections and ConEd assessments. NRC has emphasized through letters, such as the December 22, 2000, report of plant restart inspection activities that we previously provided to you, the need for ConEd to continue performance improvement efforts in this area.

We will continue our strong regulatory posture at Indian Point 2. As you know, we recently completed a significant supplemental team inspection at the facility and conducted a public exit meeting, which you attended, on March 2 in the Cortlandt Town Hall at which we presented the results of this team inspection. We plan to issue a final inspection report by early April 2001.

If you have any further questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Richard A. Meserve