FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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STATEMENT FROM GOVERNOR PATAKI ON CON ED INCIDENT

Governor George E. Pataki today directed the Public Service Commission to work with appropriate State agencies to conduct a full review of the events leading up to and resulting in the shutdown of Consolidated Edison's Indian Point 2 nuclear reactor in Buchanan, as well as the handling of the shutdown.

"While the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission has primary responsibility for oversight of this plant, we will make sure that both the federal government and Con Ed acted appropriately in the weeks leading up to this shut down," Governor Pataki said. "New Yorkers deserve a full accounting for the events surrounding this incident. We must ensure that safety always comes first when dealing with these facilities." .

The Governor directed the State Emergency Management Office (SEMO) and the state Department of Health (DOH) to work with the PSC on the State's review of the events which led to the shut-down of the reactor on Tuesday.

The PSC will review the economic implications of the shut down and any damage to the plant that may have occurred. The state Department of Health will review and confirm initial test data that showed no measurable rise in radiation levels within a 2 1/2-mile radius of the plant, and SEMO will work with the PSC to ensure that the company's communications with state and local officials were appropriate from an emergency management perspective.

"While the Nuclear Regulatory Commission will examine Con Edison's plant operations, maintenance and safety practices, the PSC will work with SEMO and the Health Department to ensure that the State's interests are protected as well," PSC Chair Maureen Helmer said. "Consolidated Edison must demonstrate that its actions were reasonable and that proper procedures were followed. At the same time, we will work with the NRC to ensure all proper monitoring was and remains in place."

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