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NOTE TO EDITORS:

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The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has issued a letter to Consolidated Edison Company of New York detailing the preliminary findings of a special inspection to review the cause of the February 12, 2000, steam generator tube failure at Con Ed's Indian Point 2 nuclear power plant in Buchanan, N.Y. The letter is available from the NRC's Office of Public Affairs or from the NRC's web page at http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/REACTOR/IP/index.html .

Separately, the NRC issued an amendment to the Indian Point 2 technical specifications today. The amendment allows Con Ed, among other things, to remove the containment recirculation filters and charcoal absorbers. The request for amendment - which is based on the NRC's revised calculation of the amount of fission products that would be released to the containment during a severe acident - was submitted by ConEd in November 1999. Copies of this amendment are available from the NRC's electronic reading room at accession number ML003727500. Copies are also available from the NRC's Office of Public Affairs.

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