

CORR: 00-0031

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COMMISSION CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence Response Sheet

Date: March 3, 2000

To: Chairman Meserve
Commissioner Dicus
Commissioner Diaz ✓
Commissioner McGaffigan
Commissioner Merrifield

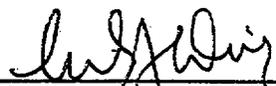
From: Annette Vietti-Cook, Secretary

Subject: Letter to Representative Sue W. Kelly concerns the steam generator tube leak that occurred at Indian Point 2

ACTION: Please comment/concur and respond to the Office of the Secretary by:

Time: C.O.B.
Day: Monday
Date: March 13, 2000

I concur with attached edits.


Nils J. Diaz 3/7/00

Comment:

Contact: William Ruland, EDO/RI
610-337-5376

Entered in STARS Tracking System Yes No

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ORIGINAL



CHAIRMAN

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

The AIT is expected to complete its report by the end of April 2000. We will provide you a copy when available.

The Honorable Sue W. Kelly
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3219

Dear Congresswoman Kelly:

This letter is in response to your February 17, 2000, inquiry into the steam generator tube leak that occurred at Indian Point 2 on February 15, 2000. Specifically, you requested the status of our investigation into the factors that led to this event. In addition, you raised concerns about the actions taken in response to indications of steam generator leakage in the weeks preceding the declaration of an Alert on the evening of February 15, 2000.

I understand that Mr. Hubert Miller, the Region I Regional Administrator, answered many of your questions during a tour of Indian Point 2 plant on February 25. As you are aware, there is currently an NRC Augmented Inspection Team (AIT) at Indian Point 2. The goals of this team are to determine what happened prior to, during, and following the event.

The NRC has requirements for the operation, maintenance, and monitoring of steam generators. This includes limiting steam generator leakage during plant operations. Indian Point 2 has had some steam generator tube leakage throughout the current plant operating cycle. However, the leakage rate was well below plant technical specification limits. Prior to February 15, NRC on-site inspectors, with support from Region I and NRC headquarters, monitored and assessed the Consolidated Edison Company actions to ensure that the steam generator leakage remained below the plant technical specification limits. Commercial nuclear power industry experience to date has shown that steam generator leakage at the low levels noted at Indian Point 2 prior to the February 15, 2000, event is typically not predictive of a tube failure.

The AIT will be reviewing this matter in greater detail. In addition to the AIT, the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) is conducting a review of the Indian Point 2 steam generators which will focus on the steam generator inspections, problem identification, root cause analysis, and corrective actions.

In closing, the NRC believes that we understand your concerns and we are taking actions to fully understand the event. I trust that your meetings with Mr. Miller on February 25 and Mr. Samuel Collins, Director of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, on March 2, 2000, have provided substantial insight into this matter. We will provide you with the results of our reviews as soon as they are completed. In addition, we ~~tentatively plan~~ ^{have scheduled} a public meeting in the area around Indian Point 2 ~~during the week of March 13, 2000~~, to discuss this event and our actions in this matter. ~~We will notify you of the date, time, and location of this meeting when it is~~

The public meeting will be at 7 pm on March 14, 2000, at the New York State Armory in Peekskill, NY.

The Honorable Sue W. Kelly

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~~finalized~~. Additional public outreach activities to the communities surrounding Indian Point 2 will be conducted afterward to provide up-to-date information on our findings regarding this event.

If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to call me.

Sincerely,

Richard A. Meserve