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Diaz

COMMISSION CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence Response Sheet

Date: March 7, 2000

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

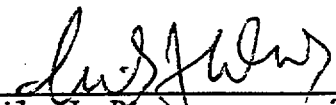
From: Annette Vietti-Cook, Secretary

Subject: Letter to Congresswoman Nita Lowey concerns recent steam generator tube failure at Indian Point 2 NPP

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

Time: C.O.B.
Day: Wednesday
Date: March 15, 2000

I concur with attached edits.


Nils J. Diaz 3/8/00

Comment:

Contact: George Wunder, EDO/NRR
415-1494

Entered in STARS Tracking System Yes No

W/10

REC'D BY MJD

8 MAR 00 10:18

ORIGINAL



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

The Honorable Nita M. Lowey
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Lowey:

I am responding to your letter of February 18, 2000, regarding the recent steam generator tube failure at Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit No. 2 operated by Consolidated Edison Co., in Buchanan, New York. Specifically, you requested a thorough examination of the steam generators at the plant. In addition, you requested to meet with Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) officials to discuss the safety risks associated with continued operation of the facility. You also requested that NRC conduct a public meeting to provide information to citizens in the surrounding communities.

I understand that Mr. Samuel Collins, Director of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, and others spoke with you and several interested parties on February 28, 2000, to discuss issues associated with the event. I trust that this discussion was of help to you.

As you noted in your letter, the NRC has sent an Augmented Inspection Team (AIT) to the Indian Point 2 facility to determine what happened prior to, during and after the event. The NRC has requirements for the operation, maintenance and monitoring of steam generators which include limitations on steam generator tube leakage during plant operation. Indian Point 2 has had some steam generator tube leakage throughout the current plant operating cycle. However, the leakage rate was well 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 review Consolidated Edison's actions with regard to steam generator maintenance and performance in greater detail.

With regard to inspection of the steam generators, Consolidated Edison is responsible for performing the detailed examinations of the steam generators referred to in your letter. In addition to the AIT review of steam generator matters mentioned above, the NRC's Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation is also 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.

have scheduled
The NRC is working diligently to ensure that information regarding this event and NRC's review are available to members of the public and their representatives. I trust that your discussions with Mr. Samuel Collins provided you with substantial insight into this matter. We will provide you with the results of NRC's reviews of this event as soon as they are completed. In addition, we ~~tentatively plan to conduct~~ a public meeting in the Indian Point 2 area ~~during the week of March 10, 2000~~, to discuss this event and our actions in this matter with members of the public. ~~We will notify you of the date, time and location of this meeting when~~

The public meeting will be at 7 PM on March 14, 2000, at the New York state driveway in Peekskill, NY.

Honorable Nita M. Lowey

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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