

Dicus

CORR: 00-0075

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2000 MAY -9 PM 3:19

COMMISSION CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence Response Sheet

Date: May 9, 2000

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

From: Annette Vietti-Cook, Secretary

Subject: Letter to Congressman Gilman concerns coolant pipe rupture at Indian Point II

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

Time: C.O.B.
Day: Wednesday
Date: May 17, 2000

5/12/00

Comment:

*Comments from
Commissioner Dicus'
Staff attached.
[Signature]
5/11
w/22*

Contact: Jefferey Harold, EDO/NRR
415-1421

Entered in STARS Tracking System Yes No



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Benjamin A. Gilman
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3220

Dear Congressman Gilman:

I am responding to your letter of April 12, 2000, concerning the steam generator tube failure at Indian Point 2 (IP2) on February 15, 2000. The Commission ~~appreciates your concerns and we~~ ^{is} ~~are~~ taking actions to fully assess the issues related to the IP2 steam generators.

While we are concerned and taking appropriate regulatory actions, it is important to note that the release

The event involved a steam generator tube failure that resulted in ~~an initial~~ ^{coolant water} primary ~~(radioactive)~~ ^{side to secondary (non-radioactive)} leak of reactor coolant. The ~~leak did~~ ^{leak did not result in a minor} radiological release to the environment that was ~~well~~ ^{did not result in} within regulatory limits, ~~however, no~~ radioactive water was released inside the plant. It was also noted that ~~no~~ ^{radiation} radioactivity was measured off site above normal background levels, and ~~determined that the event did not~~ ^{did not adversely impact} impact the public health and safety.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission sets ~~minimum~~ requirements that must be met by the licensee for IP2, Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc. (Con Ed), to ensure protection of public health and safety. The NRC is overseeing Con Ed's steam generator tube inspections, repairs, and other corrective actions to ensure these public health and safety requirements are met. Since Con Ed's current steam generator inspections have determined that more than 1 percent of the tubes inspected are defective, the IP2 license requires NRC approval before plant restart. The plant will not restart before Con Ed demonstrates that NRC requirements have been met and the NRC specifically approves restart.

Related to your request regarding the installation of the new steam generators currently on site at IP2, the Union of Concerned Scientists has submitted a Petition to the NRC requesting that the existing steam generators be replaced prior to restart. In general, a plant operator can meet NRC requirements on steam generator tube leakage through a number of methods, including repairing or plugging defective tubes. However, the NRC is carefully reviewing the petitioner's request that NRC require replacement of the steam generators. The NRC decision on this request will be made available to the public when it is completed. In addition, a public meeting will be held in the vicinity of the plant to discuss the staff's evaluation of the Indian Point 2 steam generators prior to restart.

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

Sincerely,

Richard A. Meserve