

CORR: 00-0103

CORR: 00-0103

Merrifield

COMMISSION CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence Response Sheet

Date: June 26, 2000

Approved with attached edits.

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


Jeffrey S. Merrifield, 6/29/00

From: Annette Vietti-Cook, Secretary

Subject: Letter to Representative Sue W. Kelly concerns the safety of operations at the Indian Point 2 plant

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

Time: 11:30 a.m.
Day: Wednesday
Date: July 5, 2000

Comment:

Contact: George Wunder, EDO/NRR
415-1494

Entered in STARS Tracking System Yes No

W/40



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Sue W. Kelly
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3219

Dear Congresswoman Kelly:

I am responding to your letter of May 26, 2000, in which you expressed continued concern about the safety of operations at the Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit No. 2 (IP2). You specifically expressed concern about the steam generator tube failure at IP2 on February 15, 2000, and about the efforts being undertaken by our Office of the Inspector General (OIG).

Following the tube failure event, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission dispatched an Augmented Inspection Team (AIT) to IP2. The AIT determined that, ^{although} ~~though~~ there were ~~some~~ areas in which there is room for ^{significant} improvement, the systems and procedures in place at IP2, including emergency preparedness procedures, are adequate. A detailed report of the AIT findings was forwarded to you electronically on April 28, 2000.

to protect public health and safety.

Since the February 15, 2000, event, the plant's owner, Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc. (Con Ed), inspected the tubes in all four steam generators. As a result of this inspection, Con Ed removed some tubes from service. Con Ed evaluated the tube inspection data and concluded in its Operational Assessment Report of June 2, 2000, that there is reasonable assurance that the tubes that have been left in service will maintain their structural integrity for 10 months of operation. Con Ed has stated their intention to begin replacement of

the steam generators by the end of the year. The NRC staff is reviewing Con Ed's report and, based on this review, the ~~Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR)~~ will determine whether ~~or~~ ~~not continued~~ operation of IP2 with the current steam generators poses an undue risk to public health and safety. Our Regional staff are also continuing their inspection activities in order to ensure that all appropriate corrective actions have been completed.

X
X

An OIG review of issues surrounding the February 15, 2000, event is ongoing. Consistent with its standard process, the OIG will provide any safety-significant information to the staff, as appropriate. This information will be taken into account when making the decision whether to allow IP2 to resume operations. ^(New paragraph) The NRC staff has kept the Commission ^(fully) informed of the status of IP2 and its findings since the February 15th event. The NRC staff will inform the Commission, internal stakeholders including OIG, as well as the public in the vicinity of the plant, of the results of the ~~NRR's~~ review of the IP2 steam generator operational assessment, prior to issuing its decision with regard to the restart of the plant.

**
(see Note)

I trust that this letter addresses your concerns.

Sincerely,

Richard A. Meserve

** NOTE: I agree with the Chairman's edits to the second sentence. However, I am not comfortable with the Chairman's addition, "The focus of the OIG's". Should the OIG conclude that there are problems with the staff's review process, or the scope of the technical reviews associated with past licensing actions, there may be implications for the matters now before the staff and the Commission.