

CORR: 00-0109

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W. Diaz

COMMISSION CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence Response Sheet

Date: June 29, 2000

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

I concur, with attached edits.

Nils J. Diaz
Nils J. Diaz

07/12/00

From: Annette Vietti-Cook, Secretary

Subject: Letter to Congresswoman Kelly concerns Consolidated Edison's intent to resume operations at Indian Point 2 nuclear power plant with the current steam generators

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

Time: C.O.B.
Day: Monday
Date: July 10, 2000

Comment: RESPONSE IS FOR SIGNATURE OF THE EDO.

Contact: George Wunder, EDO/NRR
415-1494

Entered in STARS Tracking System Yes No

W/44

ORIGINAL



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

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

Dear Congresswoman Kelly:

I am responding to your letter to Chairman Meserve of June 5, 2000. In your letter, you indicated that the intention of the Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc. (Con Ed), to resume operations at their Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit No. 2 (IP2) has generated concern among citizens in the communities surrounding the facility. You also expressed your own concern over Con Ed's intention to resume operations at IP2; you specifically noted the possible release of contaminated water to the Hudson River as a safety concern.

As you are aware, IP2 has been shut down since a steam generator tube failure event on February 15, 2000. Following the tube failure event, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) dispatched an Augmented Inspection Team (AIT) to IP2. A detailed report of the AIT findings was forwarded to you electronically on April 28, 2000. This report briefly addressed the unplanned discharge to the Hudson River that occurred on February 21 and 22, 2000. This unplanned discharge was the result of inadequate flushing of a section of piping before discharging water through that piping. I do not wish to minimize the seriousness of procedural errors such as the one that resulted in the unplanned discharge to the Hudson River; however, I would like to assure you that the amount of activity discharged was small and the dilution of that activity before it reached the Hudson River was large. ~~As a result, we~~ ^{conservatively} have estimated the amount of whole-body exposure that any member of the public might receive as a result of this ^{unplanned} ~~inadvertent~~ discharge ^{to be approximately} ~~as~~ .001 millirem, about 100,000 times lower than the allowable annual exposure to a member of the public. ^{10 CFR Part 20} We plan to continue with heightened NRC management

oversight and detailed inspections of IP2 operations as indicated by NRC's decision to designate IP2 as an "agency focus" plant in the most recent senior management meeting.

Since the February 15, 2000, event, Con Ed has inspected the tubes in all four steam generators. As a result of this inspection, Con Ed removed some tubes from service. ^{subsequently,} Con Ed evaluated the tube inspection data and has submitted its Operational Assessment Report to the NRC. The NRC staff is reviewing Con Ed's report and, based on this review, ~~the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation~~ will determine whether or not continued operation of IP2 poses any undue risk to public health and safety. I would like to assure you that the safety of the surrounding communities will be central to the decision of whether or not to allow IP2 to restart.

as well as IP-2 plant workers,

I am pleased to know that you attended the public meeting on June 25 and stated your views on developments at the Indian Point 2 site. I hope that the meeting served the purpose of explaining to the public the status of NRC's review of Indian Point 2 activities and issues, including steam generator integrity. I know we benefitted from receiving public comments which we will consider as we ~~complete~~ our reviews.

conduct

Please do not hesitate to call me at (301) 415-1700 if you have additional concerns in this matter.

Sincerely,

William D. Travers
Executive Director
for Operations *