

*Merrifield*

**CORR: 00-0114**

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**COMMISSION CORRESPONDENCE**

**Correspondence Response Sheet**

**Date:** July 3, 2000

Approved subject to attached edits.

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

*Jeffrey S. Merrifield*  
Jeffrey S. Merrifield, 7/5/00

**From:** Annette Vietti-Cook, Secretary

**Subject:** Letter to Benjamin A. Gilman concerns notifications associated with a recent plant shutdown and steam generator integrity issues at Indian Point

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

**Time:** NOON  
**Day:** Wednesday  
**Date:** July 12, 2000

**Comment:**

**Contact:** Tracy Walker, EDO/RI  
610/337-5381

Entered in STARS Tracking System  Yes  No

*W/49*



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

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

Dear Congressman Gilman:

*Thank you for*  
~~This letter is in response to~~ your June 13, 2000, letter regarding notifications associated with a recent plant shutdown at Indian Point Unit 3, as well as steam generator integrity issues at Indian Point Unit 2. You requested that an additional public meeting be held to provide a forum for public input on issues at Indian Point.

First, regarding the event at Indian Point Unit 3 on June 9, the unexpected shutdown was caused by a defective wire associated with the plant's output generator protective relay circuitry. The defective wire was replaced and the plant was safely restarted. Automatic shutdowns *are like this* preventive in nature and are part of the basic power plant design ~~to limit risks to public health and safety.~~

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) regulations require that licensees notify us in certain events, including unexpected plant shutdowns such as the one that occurred at Indian Point 3. The NRC reviews and assesses events at nuclear power plants on a continuing basis. These assessments consider the potential health and safety effects on the public. In this case, there was no undue risk to public health and safety. Thus, no special notifications were warranted for this event.

*clearly*

As a service to the public, however, the NRC makes available on a daily basis nuclear power plant status reports and event briefings. Events such as the plant shutdown at Indian Point 3 would be included. This information is available through the news and information section of the NRC Web-site ([www.nrc.gov](http://www.nrc.gov)).

Regarding your concerns about Indian Point Unit 2, although Consolidated Edison (ConEd) has operated Indian Point Unit 2 safely, the NRC shares your concern about events at the plant and recognizes the importance of our continued close attention to corrective actions being taken by ConEd to address identified performance problems.

The NRC is conducting a comprehensive review of ConEd's proposal to allow plant startup and operation with the existing steam generators for a limited period of time. ConEd must obtain NRC approval prior to plant startup in accordance with its operating license to operate the existing steam generators. NRC ~~experts from the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR)~~

~~and NRC Region 1~~ <sup>inspectors and technical staff</sup> have been fully engaged <sup>on the steam generator tube integrity activities</sup> with ConEd steam generator inspections <sup>at Indian Point 2</sup> since

shortly after the February 2000 event. This engagement has involved direct observation of steam generator inspections performed by ConEd, and detailed review of inspection data and results as they relate to steam generator tube integrity. NRC approval of future operation of the plant with the existing steam generators will not occur unless we conclude that these generators meet technical standards, and, therefore, pose no undue risk to public health and safety.

*I assure you that*

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,