

Merrifield

CORR: 00-0118

CORR: 00-0118

COMMISSION CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence Response Sheet

I recommend consolidating this letter with the letter provided in CORR:00-0103 (Revised). Also, given that the staff's decision on the technical adequacy of ConEd's proposal is apparently imminent, I recommend that the Chairman consider delaying the issuance of these letters so that the staff's decision is reflected in them. Finally, I recommend some minor edits.

Date: July 12, 2000

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


Jeffrey S. Merrifield, 7/14/00

From: Annette Vietti-Cook, Secretary

Subject: Letter to Congresswoman Kelly concerns issues regarding the proposed restart of Indian Point 2

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

Time: NOON
Day: Thursday
Date: July 20, 2000

Comment:

Contact: Robert Pulsifer, EDO/NRR
415-3016

Entered in STARS Tracking System Yes No

W/56



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

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

Dear Congresswoman Kelly:

Thank you for
~~I am responding to~~ your letter of June 14, 2000, in which you request that I, as Chairman of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, ensure that the safety of the public is not jeopardized by resuming the operation of Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit No. 2. Further, you request that the Commission, rather than the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, determine whether to allow Consolidated Edison (ConEd) to restart the plant, using the existing steam generators. You based this request on a series of developments, listed in your letter, which followed the February 15, 2000, incident of a steam generator tube failure.

Although public health and safety have been maintained, the NRC shares your concern about events at the plant and recognizes the importance of our continued close attention to ConEd's corrective actions for performance problems. The NRC staff is conducting a comprehensive review of ConEd's proposal to allow plant startup and operation for a limited period using the existing steam generators. As you are aware, in accordance with its operating license, ConEd must obtain NRC's approval before plant startup and operation with the existing steam generators.

The NRC staff ~~from the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation and NRC Region I~~ ^{has} been closely following ConEd's steam generator inspections since shortly after the February 2000 event. This activity ~~also~~ includes a detailed review of inspection data and results as they relate to

steam generator tube integrity. The staff is continuing its inspections to ensure that all appropriate corrective actions will be completed before restart. 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~~ *can be operated safely so as to* pose no undue risk to public health and safety.

I The staff has kept and will continue to keep the Commission informed of its review activities, including those you have listed in your letter, related to the restart of Indian Point Unit 2. The Commission recognizes the level of detail of the staff's review of ConEd's proposal and believes that the staff is taking appropriate actions to ensure that the health and safety of the public will continue to be maintained.

I appreciate the extent of your concern in these matters. If you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to call me.

Sincerely,

I assure you

Richard A. Meserve