

Diaz

CORR: 00-0148

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COMMISSION CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence Response Sheet

Date: September 14, 2000

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

Approve, although I believe the response could be made clearer, e.g., see attached.


Nils J. Diaz 09/19/00

From: Annette Vietti-Cook, Secretary

Subject: Letter to Congressman Hinchey concerns replacement of all four steam generators at Indian Point 2 prior to start up

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

Time: NOON
Day: Friday
Date: September 22, 2000

Comment:

Contact: George Wunder, EDO/NRR
415-1494

Entered in STARS Tracking System Yes No

W/W

ORIGINAL

Response:

The detectors located around the site are intended to measure the impact of a radiological release on the environment. Variables such as atmospheric conditions; the radiological characteristics of the gaseous mixture; radiological dose factors; and the elevation, concentration, rate and duration of the release will have an impact on the amount of activity measured by any given detector around the plant. Because of these variables, attempts to take the measurements of individual detectors and use them to calculate the total amount of activity released would be very difficult; however, using conservative estimates of the ^{measured} radioactivity per unit volume released, the rate of the release, and the duration of the release, the NRC staff was able to confirm ConEd's estimate that, in the worst case, 1.7 curies of activity were released as a result of the February 15 event. A release of 1.7 curies is consistent with the indications of the detectors around the site.

While the agency does not operate any independent system of radiation detectors or effluent measurement devices, the NRC has confidence, based on performance and experience, that the NRC independent inspection program in this area provides sufficient oversight of licensee performance to ensure that public health and safety, and protection of the environment is maintained. We periodically inspect the licensee's programs, practices and methods so as to verify and validate their conformance with radiological effluent technical specifications. The NRC also reviews and inspects the licensee's Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program to determine whether or not the licensee is effectively monitoring the radiological impact of plant operations on the environment and to confirm that radiological effluents are properly