

CORR: 01-0010

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Merrifield

COMMISSION CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence Response Sheet

Date: **January 22, 2001**

*Concur subject to
attached comments.*

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

[Signature]
1/22/01

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

Subject: **Letter to Representative Sue W. Kelly concerns activities at Consolidated Edison's Indian Point 2 nuclear power station**

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

Time: **1:30 p.m.**

Day: **Monday**

Date: **January 22, 2001**

Comment:

Contact: **Brian Holian, RG1/DRS
610-337-5128**

Entered in STARS Tracking System **Yes** **No**

W/86



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

CHAIRMAN

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

Dear Congresswoman Kelly:

I am responding to your letter dated January 3, 2001, ⁱⁿ which ^{you} raised concerns about activities at Consolidated Edison's Indian Point 2 nuclear power station. In particular, you raised concerns about leaks at Indian Point 2, and also requested ^{that} the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) ~~to~~ suspend operations at Indian Point 2 until safety issues have been addressed and resolved.

Consistent with our designation of Indian Point 2 as a plant warranting heightened scrutiny under our Reactor Oversight Program, we have been closely monitoring plant activities. We have conducted augmented inspections of Consolidated Edison's restart testing and power ascension program and have carefully assessed their handling of various equipment issues that have arisen during the restart process, such as the pressurizer relief valve leakage ~~reported~~ to the plant's pressurizer relief tank that you referred to in your letter. We have determined that this leakage, which by design is being retained by plant systems, is well below allowable NRC limits. This leakage is also well below levels that would ~~affect continuing safety valve function~~ ^{adversely} ~~the operation of the~~. It is important to note that the high-pressure reactor coolant systems at all nuclear power plants experience a very small amount of leakage that is routinely ~~captured~~ ^{retained by plant systems} and processed in a safe and controlled manner. ~~Therefore~~ ^{and}, I can assure you that this leakage, poses no threat to public

↑
INSERT
FROM
NEXT
PAGE

NOTE:
"CAPTURED" COULD
IMPLY OFFSITE OR
ONSITE

The Honorable Sue W. Kelly

INSERT AT THE START OF PREVIOUS SENTENCE

health and safety of plant employees. Additionally, this leakage is fundamentally different from

the leakage during the February steam generator tube failure. I understand that details of this

leak were discussed in depth with you and your staff during a plant tour with Mr. Hubert Miller,

Region I Administrator, on January 5, 2001. ^{NEW TT} Another issue that has received press coverage,

and which you referenced in your letter, was a minor leak on a main boiler feedwater pump,

which was from the secondary (non-radioactive) side of the plant. Upon discovery,

Consolidated Edison took appropriate action to isolate the leak, repair the problem, and return

the pump back to service. NRC regional and resident inspectors monitored Consolidated

Edison's actions during this evolution and concluded that their actions were proper.

INSERT
1ST 4
SENTENCES
FROM
SCHUMER
PARAGRAPH
#4

With respect to your request to suspend operation of the plant, the Commission continues to believe it would be inappropriate to issue an order to suspend operations at Indian Point 2, in light of the results of inspections to date and our ongoing oversight of licensee activities. Our inspections over the past several months have examined such things as safety system readiness, licensed operator training, corrective actions, and aspects of emergency preparedness.

Reports of these inspections have been made publicly available. Further, as you know, we have initiated a significant, supplemental team inspection to provide additional insights into facility operations at Indian Point 2 which will inform the NRC's ongoing consideration in this regard. This inspection team is made up of over a dozen people from various NRC regional offices, NRC headquarters, and contractors. This inspection will consist of three weeks of on-site inspection activities.

^{NEW TT (SPACE)} The Commission is aware of the concerns in the community regarding problems the Indian Point 2 plant has experienced. ^{INSERT "As such, we have worked diligently..." (INSERT OUTREACH INITIATIVES OUTLINED IN SCHUMER #3)} Additionally, I want to assure you that should the NRC find in the future that the licensee is not complying with NRC requirements or not maintaining

WE BELIEVE THE SCHUMER VERSION OF THIS PARAGRAPH IS BETTER-WRITTEN.