

CORR: 01-0037

CORR: 01-0037

Diaz

COMMISSION CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence Response Sheet

Date: *March 2, 2001*

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

Concur with edits.



Nils J. Diaz 03/8/01

From: *Annette Vietti-Cook, Secretary*

Subject: *Letter to New York State Assemblywoman Sandra R. Galef concerns resident inspector staffing at the Indian Point 2 and 3 nuclear power stations*

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

Time: *C.O.B.*
Day: *Monday*
Date: *March 12, 2001*

Comment:

Contact: *Peter Eselgroth, EDO/RI*
610/337-5234

Entered in STARS Tracking System Yes No

w/99

-REC'D BY RJD--

5 MAR 01 9:01

ORIGINAL

The Honorable Sandra R. Galef
New York State Assembly
Legislative Office Building, Room 540
Albany, NY 12248

Dear Ms. Galef:

I am responding to your letter dated February 12, 2001, concerning resident inspector staffing at the Indian Point 2 and 3 nuclear power stations. ~~Responding to an article in the Journal News, you~~ You expressed concern about possible reductions in the number any reduction of on-site inspectors at the Indian Point 2 or Indian Point 3 facilities if Entergy Corporation becomes the owner of these facilities.

As you are aware, there are ~~a total of~~ currently four resident inspectors assigned to the Indian Point plants. If the plants become owned by one company, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) would carefully evaluate a variety of issues relating to the ability of the new owner to operate ~~the both facilities~~ facility effectively as a single site. For example, ~~the NRC would evaluate~~ the integration of programs, procedures and plant staff organizations ~~would need to be evaluated~~. It will be some time before decisions can be made about reducing resident inspector staffing at the Indian Point site.

It is also important to note that, no matter how many resident inspectors are assigned to a site, the total amount of inspection a plant receives is determined by criteria ~~set in~~ established

by NRC's Reactor Oversight Program. The Regional Office may be called upon to supplement inspection resources provide additional inspectors at a site in response to specific issues or degrading plant performance. For example, under the Reactor Oversight Process, over the past year, we expended approximately twice the inspection effort at the Indian Point 2 plant than we spent at any other plant single unit sites. As you may know, the Commission most recently addressed resident inspector staffing in January 2000. When the decision was made to reduce permanent resident staffing at some sites, the Commission noted that the policy revision will not in and of itself result in a reduction of inspection resources, and represents a greater agency focus on safety by enhancing NRC's ability. A decision to reduce resident staffing at a particular site actually improves the NRC's oversight of plants by allowing us to allocate resources among plants on the basis of licensee performance.

As you know, we have just completed a special inspection of the Indian Point 2 facility (95003 Supplemental Inspection). We expect it will be appropriate to continue a heightened level of inspection and oversight at the facility for some time. We will keep you informed of our specific plans in this regard as they are formulated.

In summary, maintaining reasonable assurance of public health and safety will continue to be the primary factor in making such decisions. Thank you for informing me of your concern. If you have any further questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,