

June 13, 2001

MEMORANDUM TO: Glenn M. Tracy, Chief
Operator Licensing, Human Performance,
and Plant Support Branch
Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: Brian E. Holian, Deputy Director /RA/
Division of Reactor Projects
Region I

SUBJECT: LETTER OF APPRECIATION FOR RICHARD PELTON,
INDIAN POINT 2 95003 INSPECTION

I want to share with you my impressions of the job Richard Pelton did in the 95003 inspection at the Indian Point 2 plant. Rick employed his in-depth knowledge of NRC programs and requirements, his inspection experience, and his outstanding interpersonal skills in accomplishing this precedent-setting task at the nation's first multiple degraded cornerstone plant.

The 95003 supplemental inspection was a first-of-a-kind effort, and represents the most extensive inspection under the NRC's reactor oversight program. The goal of the 95003 inspection was to determine the breadth and depth of safety, organizational, and programmatic issues at the station. The effort included an important diagnostic element, to assist senior agency management with regulatory decisions regarding the safety and continued operation of the facility. The effort was particularly challenging in light of the intense public and congressional interest.

Rick demonstrated great poise and flexibility in his ability to deviate from his original inspection scope as emergent issues arose and as regional management redirected the team's efforts. Rick exemplified professionalism, attention to detail, sound regulatory perspectives, and keen nuclear insights. Throughout his efforts, Rick was able to focus on risk/safety significant issues and provided keen insights and findings in those areas.

Rick provided valuable insights and findings through his review of Human Performance issues, which included a review of the organizational practices within the operations department. Further, Rick observed operators as they performed their duties, and reviewed the site training and qualification programs. Rick's findings provided further examples of the type of issues that have caused Indian Point 2 to have multiple degraded cornerstones. His efforts provided the team lead with important information which was used in assessing Indian Point 2's recent performance and formulating future NRC regulatory actions.

Rick demonstrated accurate, organized, clear and concise oral communications throughout the inspection effort. His written products to the team lead were technically accurate, clear, and well organized.

Glenn M. Tracy

2

I recognize the long hours and off-hours travel, and more importantly, the extended time away from home and family, which were required of Rick to accomplish this important activity. I have given him my sincere thanks for the personal sacrifices that he made in accomplishing this effort.

I would also like to thank you for providing us the necessary resources in order to accomplish this first of its kind inspection.

Distribution:

B. Boger, NRR

F. Gillespie, NRR

D. Trimble, NRR

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*This letter has been revised.

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