



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

July 12, 1999

The Honorable Kevin A. Cahill
Assemblyman 101st District
Assembly of New York
Room 527, Legislative Office Building
Albany, New York 12248

Dear Mr. Cahill:

I am responding to your letter of May 14, 1999, to Chairman Jackson of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). In your letter, you requested verification of information provided to your office that indicated that radioactive material was continuously released to the Hudson River from Indian Point Unit 1 (IP1) during the time the plant was active.

IP1 operated from August 1962 until it was permanently shut down on October 31, 1974. The defueling of the reactor was completed in 1975, and the reactor's irradiated fuel was stored in a water-filled fuel storage pool at Unit 1. During the years that IP1 was operating, periodic controlled releases of liquid effluents containing low levels of radioactive material were made from IP1 to the Hudson River, as permitted by NRC's regulations. The releases were made through the plant's liquid radwaste system. The liquid effluents were sampled and analyzed in accordance with an approved effluent monitoring program that has continued until the present.

These programs were established to comply with the requirements outlined in Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 20, "Standards for Protection Against Radiation." These regulations set limits on levels of radiation and on the concentration of radionuclides in a facility's effluent releases to the air and water (above natural background levels). In addition, the licensee was required to comply with design objectives outlined in 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix I, which require that levels of radioactive material to unrestricted areas be kept as low as reasonably achievable. To determine if the Federal release limits were met, the licensee is required to closely monitor all liquid release pathways from the facility.

To implement the applicable requirements, the licensee collected samples of liquid effluents to be discharged to the Hudson River. In addition, the licensee collected and analyzed river water samples, drinking water samples, vegetation, precipitation, and soil samples from the site. Effluents from IP1 are reported by Consolidated Edison (ConEd) in its "Annual Effluents Release and Waste Disposal Report," which is available at the local public document room at the White Plains Library in White Plains, New York. Additionally, copies of this report are distributed to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

NRC's Region I performs periodic inspection and independent measurements of ConEd effluent releases. Additionally, the NRC staff worked with the State of New York to perform environmental monitoring around the Indian Point Station from the mid-1970s through 1995. The NRC and the State of New York studies found that releases of radioactive materials from the IP1 site were in compliance with Federal limits.

NRC FILE CENTER COPY

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9907150126 990712
PDR ADOCK 05000003
W PDR


K. A. Cahill

-2-

I have enclosed ConEd's 1999 "Annual Effluents Release and Waste Disposal Report" for your review. This report indicates that the annual average dose to individuals from the combined liquid effluents for both IP1 and IP2 during 1998 is 0.000016 millirem a year, a small fraction of the Appendix I guidelines of 3 millirems a year. To put this radiation dose in perspective, the average individual receives more than 300 millirems a year from natural background radiation in the United States.

I am also enclosing a copy of "Staff Responses to Frequently Asked Questions Concerning Decommissioning of Nuclear Power Reactors," NUREG-1628, April 1998, which provides information on the decommissioning process for permanently shutdown power reactors. If you have any further questions, please contact John L. Minns of my staff at 301-415-3166.

Sincerely,


for Samuel J. Collins, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosures: 1. Annual Effluents Release and Waste Disposal Report
2. NUREG-1628, April 1998

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236 Tate Avenue
Buchanan, NY 10511

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U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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Consolidated Edison Company
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ENCLOSURE 1

ACTION

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: 06/14/99 EDO CONTROL: G19990277
DOC DT: 05/14/99
FINAL REPLY:

Kevin A. Cahill
The Assembly
State of New York

TO:

Chairman

FOR SIGNATURE OF :

** GRN **

CRC NO: 99-0503

Collins, NRR

DESC:

ROUTING:

DECOMMISSIONING PROCEEDINGS INVOLVING INDIAN POINT
NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

Travers
Knapp
Miraglia
Norry
Blaha
Burns
Miller, RI

DATE: 05/28/99

ASSIGNED TO:

CONTACT:

NRR

Collins

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

*NRR Action: DLPM: Gwolski
NRR Received: May 28, 1999
NRR Routing: Collins / Zimmerman
Kase
Sheron
NRR Mailroom*

ACTION	
DUE TO NRR DIRECTOR	
BY	<u>6/9/99</u>

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

PAPER NUMBER: CRC-99-0503 LOGGING DATE: May 27 99
ACTION OFFICE: EDO
AUTHOR: KEVIN CAHILL
AFFILIATION: NEW YORK
ADDRESSEE: CHAIRMAN JACKSON
LETTER DATE: May 14 99 FILE CODE: IDR 5 INDIAN POINT
SUBJECT: JANUARY 20, 1999 DECOMMISSIONING PROCEEDINGS
 INVOLVING INDIAN POINT NUCLEAR POWER PLANT....
ACTION: Direct Reply
DISTRIBUTION: CHAIRMAN, COMRS
SPECIAL HANDLING: SECY TO ACK
CONSTITUENT:
NOTES:
DATE DUE: Jun 14 99
SIGNATURE: DATE SIGNED:
AFFILIATION:

EDO --G19990277



THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

COMMITTEES
Health
Higher Education
Economic Development, Job Creation,
Commerce & Industry
Consumer Affairs

KEVIN A. CAHILL
Assemblyman 101st District

May 14, 1999

Honorable Dr. Shirley Ann Jackson, Chairman
Unites States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
One White Flint North
11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852-2738

Dear Dr. Jackson:

I am writing regarding the January 20, 1999 decommissioning proceedings involving Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant in Peekskill, New York. Hearing minutes forwarded to my office contained language which alluded to the fact that radioactive byproducts were released continuously into the Hudson River during the time which the plant was active. Respectfully, I would like to formally request a verification of this charge.

This river has always been and remains one of our region's most vital natural resources. Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Kevin A. Cahill
Member of Assembly

KAC/wk

9907150132 990712
PDR ADOCK 05000003
W PDR

REC'D BY SECY

27 MAY 99 3:03

Green Ticket #G19990277

Date: July 12, 1999

DISTRIBUTION:

Docket File 50-03 (w/original incoming)

PUBLIC (w/incoming)

EDO#G19990277

WTravers

MKnapp

FMiraglia

PNorry

JBlaha

SBurns

HMiller, RI

SCollins/RZimmerman

WKane

BSheron

PDIV-D r/f (w/incoming)

SRichards

OGC

OPA

OCA

SECY #CRC-99-0503

NRR Mail Room (EDO#G19990277 w/incoming) (05-E7)

CNorsworthy

MKing

JMinns (w/incoming)

RBellamy, RI

JRogge, RI

ADimitriadis, RI

RNimitz R1

cc w/out encl.: See next page

July 12, 1999

K. A. Cahill

-2-

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Sincerely,

ORIG. SIGNED BY Roy P. ZIMMERMAN
FOR Samuel J. Collins, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

- Enclosures: 1. Annual Effluents Release and Waste Disposal Report
- 2. NUREG-1628, April 1998

DISTRIBUTION: See next page

*Via Email on 7/12/99

To receive a copy of this document, indicate "C" in the box							
OFFICE	PDIV-D/PM	Region I	PDIV-D/LA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PDIV-D/SC	PDIV-1/PD	
NAME	J. Minns	R. Bellamy*	L. Berry		M. Masnik	S. Richards	
DATE	7/9/99	7/12/99	7/10/99		7/8/99	7/9/99	
To receive a copy of this document, indicate "C" in the box							
OFFICE	DLPM/D	ADPT	NRR/D		TechEd		
NAME	J. Zwolinski	B. Sheron	S. Collins		B. Calure*		
DATE	7/9/99	7/9/99	7/11/99		06/29/99	1/99	

DOCUMENT NAME: G:\PDIV-3\IndianPoint\GRN_0277.wpd

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#2
7/9

The NRC Region 1 perform periodic inspection and independent measurements of ConEd effluents releases. Additionally, the NRC staff conducted with the State of New York to perform environmental monitoring , around the Indian Point Station from the mid-1970s through 1995. The NRC and the State of New York studies found that releases of radioactive materials from the IP1 site have been in compliance with Federal limits.

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Sincerely,

Samuel J. Collins, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

- Enclosures: 1. "Annual Effluent and Waste Disposal Report"
2 NUREG-1628, April 1998

DOCUMENT NAME: G:\PDIV-3\INDIANPOINT\GRN_0277.WPD

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*see previous concurrence

OFFICE	PDIV-D/PM	R1/DNMS/C	PDIV/LA	PDIV-D/SC	PDIV-D/D
NAME	JMinns	R BELLAMY	LBerry	MMasnik	SRichards
DATE	07/ /99	07/ /99	07/ /99	07/ /99	07/ /99
OFFICE	DLPM/D	ADPT	NRR:D	TECH ED	
NAME	JZwolinski	BSheron	SCollins	BCalure* <i>Bac</i>	
DATE	07/ /99	07/ /99	07/ /99	06/29/99 - 07/18/99	