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September 6, 1972

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OFFICE OF
HEARING EXAMINERS

Samuel W. Jensch, Esq.
Chairman
Atomic Safety & Licensing Board
U. S. Atomic Energy Commission
Washington, D. C. 20545

Re: Consolidated Edison Company
of New York, Inc.
Indian Point Unit No. 2
AEC Docket No. 50-247

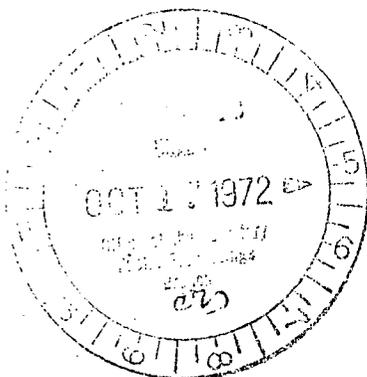
Dear Mr. Chairman:

Since Mr. Upton's letter to you of September 1, 1972 there has been an additional development affecting the schedule for the Indian Point 2 plant. This is reflected in the attached press release which is furnished for the Board's information.

Very truly yours,

LEBOEUF, LAMB, LEIBY & MACRAE
Attorneys for Applicant

By Leonard M. Trosten
Leonard M. Trosten
Partner



Attachment

cc: See next page

cc w/att.: Mr. R. B. Briggs
Dr. John C. Geyer
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Anthony Z. Roisman, Esq.
Angus Macbeth, Esq.
Honorable Louis J. Lefkowitz
J. Bruce MacDonald, Esq.
Atomic Safety and Licensing
Board Panel

BY HAND

PRESS RELEASE

Con Edison announced today (WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1972) that its 873,000 kilowatt Indian Point No. 2 nuclear power plant at Buchanan, New York will not be ready for operation until early next year. Test operation of the unit had been anticipated for later this month.

The delay was occasioned principally by a decision to replace the fuel now in the plant's reactor. The experience of other utilities using fuel similar to the type now installed at Indian Point No. 2 has shown that the fuel rods may be damaged by pressures which can develop during some phases of operation. By changing to an improved fuel design, Con Edison expects to avoid limitations on the permissible power levels which the AEC has imposed on certain other nuclear power plants.

The new fuel will be installed in rods that are pressurized with an inert gas before they are sealed, thus enabling them to better withstand the pressures in the reactor when the plant is in operation.

Also, the pre-critical hydrostatic test of the reactor coolant system disclosed that a small leak had developed in a three-quarter inch diameter branch connection to the reactor coolant system. Subsequent inspection revealed some areas in which welds and piping were not in accordance with specifications. As a matter of prudence, therefore, Con Edison is inspecting similar connections before resuming the pre-critical testing program. Required preliminary reports on these conditions have been made to the Atomic Energy Commission's Regulatory Staff.

Indian Point No. 2, which is being built by Westinghouse for Con Edison, originally had been scheduled for operation in 1969, but construction delays, protracted licensing procedures and a fire in an auxiliary building last year had pushed the date back to the fall of this year.

9/6/72