

FEB 9 1981

Docket No. 50-247

People Outraged with Energy Rates
New York Public Interest Research Group
Mailgram Service Center
Middletown, VA 22645

Dear Members:

This is in reply to your expression of concern over the recent incident at Indian Point 2 in which over 100,000 gallons of water leaked into containment.

On October 22, 1980, an NRC team began their investigation at the Indian Point site. Our investigation, analysis and evaluation will continue for the next few months, concentrating on the following major issues: thermal effects of cold water on the hot reactor vessel, effects of the brackish river water on stainless steel components, adequacy of containment sump pumps and level indicators, adequacy of operator actions and procedures and integrity of the service water system for the fan coolers. In addition, there are activities under way to assess the implications of the incident at Indian Point 2 on other nuclear power plants throughout the country.

On November 5, 1980, the Staff and Consolidated Edison held a public meeting in Westchester County, New York, to discuss the incident. Consolidated Edison now anticipates that, due to replacement of the heat exchanging sections of the five fan cooler units, the plant would not be ready to return to power operation until April 1981. Before then, NRC will have completed their review and evaluation of the incident to ensure that the public health and safety will be adequately protected before restart is allowed. The results of this review will be available, for public inspection, in the Local Public Document Room, White Plains Public Library, 100 Martine Avenue, White Plains, N.Y.

In addition, on December 11, 1980 NRC initiated civil penalties in the amount of \$210,000 for violations associated with this incident.

We believe these actions will be responsive to your concerns.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Steven A. Varga, Chief
Operating Reactors Branch No. 1
Division of Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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