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May 31, 1996

Re: Indian Point Unit No. 2
Docket No. 50-247

Document Control Desk
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mail Station P1-137
Washington, DC 20555

SUBJECT: Heavy Load Lift Rig Inspections

Consolidated Edison Company, Inc. (Con Edison) notified the Commission by letter dated August 10, 1992, that portions of the reactor head and internals lift rigs would be inspected by NDE prior to use, unless they had been inspected within the previous twelve months. The NRC notified Con Edison by letter dated February 19, 1985, that the review of the control of heavy loads at Indian Point Unit 2 was complete. The NRC letter enclosed a Safety Evaluation Report (SER) which, concerning lift rigs, stated that "Relaxation of NDE frequency to 5-year intervals for selected components is also acceptable based upon the licensee's justifications".

Con Edison has been performing the NDE of the lift rigs prior to use each outage in which the use of the lift rig is required. This NDE requires extensive preparation to perform. The internals lift rig must be removed from its storage location in the refueling cavity and staged on the refueling floor level. Temporary scaffold must be erected within and around the internals lift rig. The rig must then be decontaminated and cleaned to finally perform the NDE. The reactor head lift rig inspection requires the use of a manbasket suspended from the polar crane to gain access to a significant portion of the rig. This inspection is then performed in a high radiation area in radiation exposure rates of over 500 mR/hour. The NDE that has been conducted to date has shown the lift rigs to be free from defects with the exception of one indication which was detected and repaired after the first lift of the lower internals. There have been four subsequent lower internal lifts with the internals lift rig and no defects have been detected in the rig since the original indication was detected and repaired. The lift rigs are utilized on an average frequency of four times per refueling outage. The reactor head lift rig is only used to lift the head, the internals lift rig lifts the upper internals each refueling outage and lifts the lower internals on a ten year frequency. The lower internals weight is more than double that of the upper internals. Each rig is visually inspected prior to and during each use.

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Con Edison, based on the above information, intends to perform future inspections of the reactor head and upper internals lift rigs on a frequency consistent with that noted in the SER referenced above. Specifically, these lift rigs would be visually inspected prior to each use and NDE of selected components would be conducted on a five year (or prior to use, whichever is longer) frequency.

Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Mr. Charles W. Jackson, Manager, Nuclear Safety and Licensing.

Very truly yours,

John McLooney
for Steve Quinn.

cc: Mr. Thomas T. Martin
Regional Administrator - Region I
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