

24 AUG 1987

The Honorable Thomas F. Catapano  
Member of the Assembly  
State of New York  
Room 553  
Legislative Office Building  
Albany, New York 12248

Dear Assemblyman Catapano:

I am pleased to respond to your inquiry of August 3, 1987, which indicates your concern that management and safety problems recently identified at the Peach Bottom Nuclear Power Plant could endanger your constituents, if those same problems are present at other facilities in proximity to your district. You also cited specific areas of concern for NRC consideration.

NRC has a broad inspection program at all nuclear power plants which involves direct observation of licensee activities. In particular, NRC resident inspectors, are stationed at each facility and provide a substantial backshift and weekend inspection coverage. Access to activities at licensed facilities has not been a problem for NRC inspectors. The resident inspection program is supplemented by technical specialist inspections onsite, as necessitated by resident inspector concerns, inspection program requirements or identified generic problems such as containment design or operating procedure improvements. In addition, at selected plants where we have chosen to review the quality of operations in depth, we are periodically performing team inspections during which we provide 24 hour coverage to monitor plant operating activities for about a week. Such inspections have been conducted at both Oyster Creek and Indian Point. As a result of NRC's ongoing inspection program at these facilities, we are confident that all of your concerns are being adequately addressed on a regular basis. Rest assured that should licensee performance degrade to levels which would endanger public health and safety, we are ready to take appropriate action to protect the public.

I hope these comments have been helpful in clarifying your concerns about the Indian Point and Oyster Creek facilities. If you have any questions, please contact the Region I State and Government Affairs Staff at (215) 337-5246.

Again, I thank you for your interest in these important issues.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By  
WILLIAM T. RUSSELL

William T. Russell  
Regional Administrator

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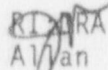
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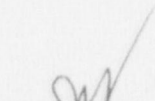
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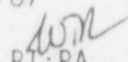
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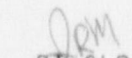
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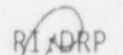
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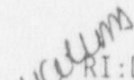
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