

March 13, 2000

The Honorable Sue W. Kelly
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-3219

Dear Congresswoman Kelly:

I am responding to your letter of February 17, 2000, concerning the steam generator tube leak that occurred at Indian Point 2 on February 15, 2000. The Commission appreciates your concerns, and we are taking actions to understand the event fully.

I understand that Mr. Hubert Miller, the Region I Regional Administrator, answered many of your questions during a tour of Indian Point 2 plant on February 25, and that you were briefed by Mr. Samuel Collins, Director of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR), on March 2, 2000. As you are aware, an NRC Augmented Inspection Team (AIT) is currently at Indian Point 2 to determine what happened prior to, during, and following the event. The AIT is expected to complete its report by the end of April 2000.

The NRC has requirements for the operation, maintenance, and monitoring of steam generators. This includes limiting steam generator leakage during plant operations. Indian Point 2 has had some steam generator leakage throughout the current plant operating cycle. However, the leakage rate was well below plant technical specification limits and was also well below the more strict administrative limits imposed by the licensee. Prior to February 15, NRC on-site inspectors, with support from Region I and NRC headquarters, monitored and assessed the Consolidated Edison Company actions to ensure that the steam generator leakage remained below the plant technical specification limits. Commercial nuclear power industry experience to date has shown that steam generator leakage at the low levels noted at Indian Point 2 prior to the February 15, 2000 event is typically not predictive of an imminent tube failure.

The AIT will be reviewing this matter in greater detail. In addition to the AIT, NRR is conducting a review of the Indian Point 2 steam generators which will focus on the analysis of data arising from the steam generator inspections, problem identification, root cause analysis, and corrective actions.

We will provide you the results of our reviews as soon as they are completed. The results will provide additional details on the questions you raised in your letter. In addition, we have scheduled a public meeting on Tuesday, March 14, 2000, at 7:00 p.m., at the New York State

Armory in Peekskill, New York, to discuss this event and our actions in this matter. Additional public outreach activities to the communities surrounding Indian Point 2 will be conducted thereafter to provide up-to-date information on our findings regarding this event.

If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Richard A. Meserve