

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: 03/22/00

EDO CONTROL: G20000124
DOC DT: 02/29/00
FINAL REPLY:

Nancy Calhoun
The Assembly
State of New York - Albany

TO:

Chairman

FOR SIGNATURE OF :

** GRN **

CRC NO: 00-0164

Miller, RI

DESC:

INDIAN POINT 2 FACILITY

ROUTING:

Travers
Paperiello
Miraglia
Norry
Blaha
Burns
Collins, NRR
Congel, IRO

DATE: 03/09/00

ASSIGNED TO:

RI

CONTACT:

Miller

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:



THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

ASSISTANT MINORITY WHIP

COMMITTEES
Environmental Conservation
Insurance
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Local Governments

MEMBER
Legislative Commission on
State/Local Relations
Hudson River Valley Greenway
Communities Council

NANCY CALHOUN
Assemblywoman 94th District

REC'D BY

February 29, 2000

8 MAR 01 Shirley Ann Jackson,
Commissioner
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Dear Ms. Jackson:

As the Assembly Representative of 94th Assembly in Rockland and Orange Counties, I am extremely concerned about the recent events that led to the shutdown of the Indian Point 2 Facility in Westchester. These circumstances led to many constituents and myself being quite concerned about this facility and its operation.

The enclosed article demonstrates the concern of the public regarding the recent occurrence. I call upon you to conduct a complete review of the Indian Point 2 facility to address the serious concerns of the community.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Nancy
Nancy Calhoun
Member of Assembly

NC/mdc
Enc.

Free Ticket 00-129



Joseph Klein of the State Emergency Management Office and Susan O'Neill of the Federal Emergency Management Agency monitor the situation of the Indian Point 2 nuclear reactor yesterday in the Civil Defense Office of the Orange County Government Center in Goshen. Photo by Matt Straus

ConEd: Leak was tiny

BUCHANAN: Small leak, big fuss over Indian Point 2.

By Wayne A. Hall
The Times Herald-Record
whal@ny-record.com

What type of danger was there from the leak at a ConEd plant that has a 10-mile evacuation zone radius covering parts of southern Orange County? Emergency management officials were monitoring for radioactive fallout and seeing if it's safe to eat or drink things like cow's milk. Sirens kept still because officials in four counties agreed that there was no reason to set them off, said Westchester's deputy county executive, Jay Hashmall. Guidelines from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission "call for the sounding of sirens only when some protective action is needed," such as evacuations or stay-

inside orders, Hashmall said. ConEd spokeswoman Joan Etrweller said there was no measurable or sizable radioactive release. The leak was just "the tiniest smidgeon," she said, from the condenser that cools steam and turns it back into water. Operators shut down the reactor. The NRC wants to know if a manhole cover-sized valve on a big pipe that sticks out of Indian Point 2's concrete dome nuclear reactor containment building puffed out radioactive steam to draw pressure away from the guts of the reactor's steam generators. To know what went wrong inside the dome you have to know how the place works. Four 40-foot-tall generators circulate water superheated by reactor energy inside hundreds of stainless steel tubes - kind of like a car radiator. There's also

water outside these tubes and this water is heated by the "radiator" tubes into steam. The steam drives a turbine outside the dome to make electricity. Then the steam is condensed back into water and shunted back inside the dome for a repeat performance. What happened Tuesday is one of the tubes inside one of the generators sprung a leak. Radioactive water flowed into the generator's steam, sending the steam to the turbine, where it's not supposed to go. From the turbine it was released through the manhole-sized valve into the air. But the leak lasted just a few seconds, ConEd maintains. This tube leak, although "minor," worries David Lochbaum of the Union of Concerned Scientists. The group is independent and tracks the nuclear industry.

It might be a sign, he said, of wear and tear "as nuclear plants get older and parts are wearing out." According to the NRC, 173 metal tubes needed repairs in the last generator inspection in 1997. A scheduled repeat look last year was put off until June of this year at ConEd's request. The utility said wear was minimal because the plant at one point had been shut down for 10 months. Indian Point 2, licensed in 1973, was built so its generators would last a 40-year-life of the license, said Lochbaum. Tuesday night's alert was expected to be lifted yesterday when water temperatures cooled to below 200 degrees. Workers would then begin looking for what caused the leak and determining how long the plant would be idle.

Nuclear plant's alert adds to neighbors' anxiety

ORANGE COUNTY: Although officials say the incident was minor, those who live near the Indian Point 2 plant are not reassured. At 6:55 a.m. yesterday, Highland Falls librarian Suzanne Brahm first heard about the "alert." A water leak in a steam generator at the Indian Point 2 nuclear power plant across the river may have released some radiation. Apparently, it didn't

serious enough for an evacuation. "We live too close," Brahm said. "We don't want to hear there is any problem with the nuclear plant. And if we do, we want to hear all the facts." Library patron Donna Koslorck agreed. "I've been worried about this possibility for years," she said yesterday. "Every time I see the plant - it looks like an orthodox church with the dome - I remember it's a nuclear plant. Awfully close to a highly populated area." In libraries, diners, hair salons and pharmacies around Orange County yesterday, people voiced

concerns about Indian Point 2, a nuclear power plant in nearby Westchester. Although they heard it wasn't an emergency situation, residents questioned the official line and worried about the possibility of more problems in the future. "Right away they're saying it's not a problem. How do they know?" asked Terri Abrams. She and her husband Kenneth live in Highland Mills, but she has family in Buchanan and Peekskill, near the plant. "I would say it's dangerously close, even here, especially if it's steam. It can go any which way. I'm a plain resident here, and I'm a bit of a worrywart. After the alert,

"The area's surrounded by unsafe plants and it's a disgrace." Scott Brown also worries about relatives. Brown, 22, lives in Washingtonville, but his grandparents live in Rockland County, right across the river from the plant. "I know my grandfather is two towns over. I know the sirens didn't go off to let everyone know, and they'll be concerned about that." Annie Kalotachin, 28, lives in Tuxedo, but her parents live "seven miles from Indian Point 2" in Rockland County. She said she's outraged. "It's too close to have had my first reaction was: 'Why didn't

the sirens go off and what's the emergency system for?" she asked. Although Con Edison officials said the release was harmless, Kalotachin doesn't buy it. "You have to ask yourself, it's on the Hudson River. What's the half-life of radiation? It doesn't dissipate right away and it's in the Hudson River and people fish there." For Deborah Macielag, concerned about the plant is a matter of business. A salesperson for Prudential Rand Realty in Central Valley, she said, "Every time something like this happens it has for buyers. It's something you have to let people know."