

April 6, 2000

The Honorable Nita M. Lowey
U.S. House of Representatives
District Office
222 Mamaroneck Avenue, Suite 310
White Plains, New York 10605

Dear Congresswoman Lowey:

I am responding to your letter of March 22, 2000, regarding your concerns about the status of Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit No. 2 (IP2) in Buchanan, New York. In your letter, you joined scientific and community advocacy groups in requesting that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) ensure that IP2 remain shut down until (1) all four steam generators are replaced, (2) the concerns raised in Dr. Joram Hopenfeld's differing professional opinion regarding steam generator tube integrity are resolved, and (3) potassium iodide tablets are distributed to residents and businesses within the 10-mile emergency planning zone and are stockpiled in the vicinity of IP2. You also requested that the NRC hold a public meeting in Westchester County to discuss these three issues and other public concerns.

In a letter dated March 14, 2000, the Union of Concerned Scientists, the Nuclear Information and Resource Service, the PACE Law School Energy Project, and Public Citizen's Critical Mass Energy Project, filed a Petition pursuant to 10 CFR 2.206 requesting that the NRC issue an order preventing IP2 from restarting until the three issues you mentioned are resolved. The Director of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation will advise the Petitioners of his decision on their request and of the reasons for that decision as soon as he completes his review. We will keep you informed of all developments on this issue and we will provide you a copy of our response to the Petitioners as soon as it becomes available.

In regard to your request that we hold a public meeting, we have already arranged to meet with the Petitioners on April 7, 2000, in our offices in Rockville, Maryland, in accordance with NRC's procedures for conducting 10 CFR 2.206 petition meetings. This meeting is open to the public and you or members of your staff are invited to attend. In addition, we will be holding a public meeting at the Indian Point site before the plant restarts.

I trust this response addresses your concerns.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Richard A. Meserve