

50-2407

**UNION OF
CONCERNED
SCIENTISTS**

March 27, 2000

Ms. Suzanne C. Black, Deputy Director
Division of Licensing Project Management
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

SUBJECT: INFORMATION REQUEST - INDIAN POINT UNIT 2

Dear Ms. Black:

This is in response to your letter dated March 24, 2000, requesting the petitioners to supply the NRC staff with information about AFW or any other safety concerns by April 3, 2000. Your letter indicates that this information is needed by April 3, 2000, to permit the NRC staff to be considered to the extent possible before the staff permits Indian Point 2 to restart.

The petitioners fully support the concept of open and timely airing of nuclear safety issues. However, we are concerned that we are being asked to exclusively shoulder this burden. For example, the petitioners still have not received any documentation - not even the transcript of the March 16, 2000, petition review board meeting. We know that documents are freely and openly flowing back and forth between the NRC staff and IP2's owner, yet none of that material has yet been placed into the public domain. The February 15, 2000, event at IP2 prompted the NRC to dispatch an Augmented Inspection Team (AIT) to the site, yet the charter for this AIT has not been made public.

Based on experience last fall with another petition on Indian Point 2, the petitioners are concerned that the NRC staff will take any material that we submit regarding AFW and other safety issues and immediately forward it to IP2's owner. That would be unfair because information on the steam generators received by the NRC staff from IP2's owner is not being shared with the petitioners or the public. Open and timely airing of nuclear safety issues must be a triangle that includes the NRC staff, the plant owner, and the public.

Before we submit any information on AFW and other safety issues to the NRC staff prior to the April 7, 2000, public meeting, we request formal responses in writing to the following questions:

1. When will the NRC staff share any information we provide with IP2's owner?
2. If the NRC staff provides IP2's owner with material we submit prior to April 7th, will the NRC staff provide the petitioners material it receives from IP2's owner prior to April 7th?

Sincerely,



David A. Lochbaum
Nuclear Safety Engineer

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