

August 1, 2000

Mr. Neil A. Sinclair
79 Miller Hill Drive
LaGrangeville, NY 12540-5604

Dear Mr. Sinclair:

I am responding to your June 5, 2000 letter, which was forwarded to us by New York State Senator Stephen M. Saland. We received your letter on July 13, 2000, and noted that you expressed concerns with the potential plant startup and continued operation of Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit No. 2 with the existing steam generators.

The NRC staff remains focused on its mission to ensure that public health and safety is protected from undue risk associated with the civilian use of nuclear power. Although the ultimate responsibility for safe operation rests with the plant operators, the NRC uses its regulatory oversight functions to monitor performance and ensure that licensees comply with regulations. The NRC has concluded that public health and safety has been maintained at Indian Point Unit 2. However, the NRC shares your concern about events at the plant and recognizes the importance of our continued close attention to ConEd's corrective actions for performance problems.

The NRC staff is conducting a comprehensive review of ConEd's proposal to allow plant startup and operation for a limited period using the existing steam generators. In a letter of July 20, 2000, the NRC informed ConEd that, based on the information submitted to date, it has been unable to conclude that the information presented in the operational assessment resolved the staff's concerns related to continued operation with existing steam generators. The NRC requested that ConEd provide additional information to address these concerns. Since ConEd must obtain NRC's approval before plant startup and operation with the existing steam generators in accordance with its operating license, the NRC staff will need this information to continue its review. NRC approval of future operation of the plant with the existing steam generators will not occur unless we conclude that these generators meet technical standards, and, therefore, pose no undue risk to public health and safety.

I trust that this response adequately addresses your concerns.

Sincerely,

/RA by R. Crlenjak for/

A. Randolph Blough, Director
Division of Reactor Safety

cc:
Stephen M. Saland, NY State Senator

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