

March 23, 2001

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

Dear Congresswoman Kelly:

I am responding to your letter dated February 20, 2001, regarding a leak that occurred in the discharge piping of a main feedwater pump at the Indian Point Unit 2 Nuclear Power Station. In particular, you requested that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) take action to hold the plant at 50 percent power until the results of our comprehensive team inspection are presented to the public.

The feedwater leak to which you are referring was a small pinhole size leak in the non-nuclear part of the plant. NRC resident inspectors, supported by regional specialists, monitored Consolidated Edison Company's (Con Edison) actions to assure this condition did not pose a threat to personnel safety or to important plant safety equipment. The inspectors assessed the adequacy of Con Edison's plans for repair of the leak, which were successfully implemented. As a consequence, there was no basis for the NRC to limit plant power level to 50 percent. Con Edison returned the plant to full power on February 24, 2001.

I very much appreciate the opportunity to meet with you at Indian Point 2 on March 9. I took the opportunity to observe the area of the repaired leak during my tour of the plant and discussed the matter with Con Edison management. I am satisfied that Con Edison responded to this matter in an appropriate manner.

Thank you for informing me of your concern. If you have any further questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Richard A. Meserve