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September 1, 2000

Mr. Thomas Bliley, Chairman
House Committee on Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Bliley,

I am writing to you concerning a report released August 31st by the NRC's Office of Inspector General outlining disturbing deficiencies in the oversight responsibilities of NRC management at the Indian Point 2 nuclear power plant in Buchanan, NY.

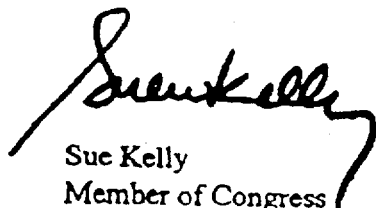
The report concluded that the NRC had in its possession, but failed to thoroughly review, a 1997 inspection report containing information that could have prevented a February 15th steam generator leak at the plant that threatened the community's safety.

The Inspector General's office reported that the NRC gave only cursory review to a 1997 inspection report concerning the plant and that a junior engineer was discouraged from obtaining any additional information after concluding that the plant's operator failed to provide enough information in its request to postpone a 1999 inspection. An official from the IG's office stated that had the NRC looked at the inspection more thoroughly, "they would have seen the steam generator was nearly cracked all the way through." In addition, the IG's report concluded that the NRC did not view steam generator issues at Indian Point 2 as significant.

Mr. Chairman, what occurred at Indian Point 2 is a glaring example of what can go wrong at any nuclear power plant when there exists a culture of neglect within the NRC. Surely, this is not an isolated case. Communities surrounding other nuclear plants nationwide may not be getting the protection they are entitled to.

The NRC's mission is to protect the public. Its ability to do that has been severely called into question. Therefore, I respectfully request that your committee convene congressional hearings as soon as possible to explore the issue of poor NRC oversight at Indian Point 2 and at nuclear power plants across the country.

Sincerely,


Sue Kelly
Member of Congress

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