

October 3, 2011

The Honorable Nita M. Lowey
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Lowey:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to your letter of July 21, 2011, regarding safety and security issues at the Indian Point Nuclear Generating Station, and concerns about the NRC's actions to address them. The NRC's Region 1 staff was aware of these issues, and conducted an independent inspection of the ARINC security system training. Although the inspectors concluded that the training provided by Entergy was appropriate and provided adequate protection to the public, I have forwarded your concerns to our Office of the Inspector General regarding the resident inspectors failing to address security and regulatory problems at the site for their review.

As you noted, the workplace safety and health concerns that you raise are covered by a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the NRC and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). The industrial safety issues that you raise fall within the jurisdiction of OSHA. For that reason, when the NRC became aware of the ventilation issues in the simulator building and the concerns regarding the bullet resistant enclosures, we invoked the MOU and referred those concerns to the appropriate OSHA area office.

You also requested information regarding regulatory exemptions granted to Indian Point. Our Office of Congressional Affairs provided that information directly to your staff on July 25, 2011.

If you or your constituents have any information regarding the physical condition of the bullet resistant enclosures that suggest an impact on plant security, we encourage you or your constituents to please contact us. If you need any additional information, please contact me or Ms. Rebecca Schmidt, Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, at (301) 415-1776.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Gregory B. Jaczko