

July 1, 2002

Ms. Mary Cronin
201 Cleveland Drive
Croton on Hudson, NY 10520

Dear Ms. Cronin:

I am responding to your May 18, 2002, e-mail to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) allegations coordinator. In your e-mail you expressed a lack of confidence in the evacuation plan for the area surrounding the Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit Nos. 2 and 3 (IP2 and 3). You requested that IP2 and 3 be closed until a workable emergency plan can be developed.

As is the case for all operating commercial reactor sites, IP is required by Federal regulations to maintain an emergency plan. The same regulations that require the emergency plan mandate that, every 2 years, a drill be conducted to exercise it. These drills involve coordination between the IP site and Federal, State, and local governments. The drills are monitored and evaluated by the NRC and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The evaluations of these drills are used as feedback to update and improve the emergency plan. In late January 2002, the State of New York issued its annual letter of certification to FEMA. By this letter, the State informed FEMA that specific preparedness activities had been completed including training and updating of State and local plans; however, the updating of State and local plans is an ongoing activity. Although there are always aspects of a plan that can be made better, the NRC maintains that the emergency plan for IP is sound and we do not consider the immediate closure of IP2 and 3 to be necessary to provide adequate protection for the public health and safety. We will continue to work with FEMA as well as with the State and local governments to update and improve the emergency plan. If you have specific concerns regarding Westchester County's emergency plan or the basis on which the State of New York certified it, you may wish to contact the County or the State directly.

I trust that this addresses your concerns. If you need further assistance, please contact the project manager for the IP units, Mr. Patrick Milano, at (301) 415-1457.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Stuart A. Richards, Director
Project Directorate I
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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Stuart A. Richards, Director
Project Directorate I
Division of Licensing Project Management
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