

October 1, 2003

The Honorable Joseph I. Lieberman
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Lieberman:

On behalf of the Commission, I am responding to your letter of July 1, 2003, addressed jointly to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), regarding emergency preparedness at the Indian Point Energy Center in Buchanan, New York. The Commission regrets the delay in responding to your letter. However, we only recently became aware of it from the response sent to you by Mr. R. David Paulison, Director of FEMA's Preparedness Division, on September 3, 2003. In my April 29, 2003 response to your February 25, 2003 letter, I noted that the NRC has been working actively with FEMA, as well as with New York State and local officials, to ensure that planning and preparedness at that facility provides reasonable assurance that protective measures can and will be taken in the event of a radiological emergency.

As Mr. Paulison informed you, FEMA, which has principal Federal responsibility for assessing offsite emergency planning and preparedness, had, on July 25, 2003, advised Governor Pataki of New York of its determination that there "is reasonable assurance that appropriate measures to protect the public health and safety have been developed and can be implemented for Indian Point." Likewise, on July 25, 2003, the NRC announced that, considering FEMA's judgment with respect to offsite preparedness and the current level of the licensee's onsite emergency planning and preparedness, we remain assured that emergency planning and preparedness for the Indian Point facility is adequate.

I want to assure you that the Commission will continue to coordinate with FEMA and with involved State and local officials. In addition, we will continue our oversight of the licensee's emergency planning and preparedness. Please do not hesitate to contact me if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Nils J. Diaz

October 1, 2003

The Honorable Christopher Dodd
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

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Identical letter sent to:

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