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CORR: 03-0053

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COMMISSION CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence Response Sheet

Approved, with edits.

Date: **March 26, 2003**

To: **Chairman Meserve
Commissioner Dicus
Commissioner Diaz ✓
Commissioner McGaffigan
Commissioner Merrifield**

Nils J. Diaz

3/31/03

From: **Annette Vietti-Cook, Secretary**

Subject: **Letter to Congress (Senators Lieberman/Dodd) concerns the emergency preparedness program for the Indian Point Energy Center**

ACTION: *Please comment/concur and respond to the Office of the Secretary by:*

Time: **NOON**
Day: **Thursday**
Date: **April 3, 2003**

Comment:

REC'D BY HJD--

MAR 29 3:29

Contact: **Patricia Milligan, NRR/EDO
415-2223**

Entered in STARS Tracking System Yes No

on issues pertaining to emergency preparedness. In the last 2 years, particularly since the September 11 attacks, FEMA, with support from NRC and other Federal agencies, has given special attention to the annual reviews of offsite emergency planning conducted by responsible State and county organizations. FEMA and NRC have conducted numerous meetings and workshops with New York State and county officials to address issues which have arisen in these reviews.

In keeping with the longstanding Memorandum of Understanding between FEMA and the NRC, we are closely monitoring the steps being taken by FEMA, the State, counties, and the plant operator, Entergy, to address the issues raised about Indian Point. In this regard, we are giving close attention to the actions being taken to address the matters identified by FEMA not only in its most recent review of the full-scale exercise conducted in September 2002, but in its earlier evaluations of areas requiring corrective action, as well as the issues raised in the reports prepared on behalf of the State of New York by James Lee Witt Associates, LLC, and in the report and petition submitted to FEMA by Assemblyman Richard Brodsky. The NRC is prepared to assist FEMA to facilitate the timely resolution of those matters needed to provide reasonable assurance that adequate protective measures can and will be taken in the event of a radiological emergency.

I assure you that the NRC continues to focus on its primary mission, the public health and safety. Thank you for your interest in the safety and security of the Indian Point Energy Center.

Sincerely,

Richard A. Meserve

Emergency preparedness is important, however, it is only one of many features used to provide adequate protection of public health and safety.