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OPA

W.P.

4:40 7.15.3

Suggested to NO  
we may want to  
look on alternative  
to the very positive  
press release.

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MLD

From: W. Beecher  
To: Nils Diaz  
Date: Thursday, July 03, 2003 9:04AM  
Subject: Draft press release

OK  
LIB

Chairman--

Attached is the draft press release, as provided to me by Maria yesterday, with a proposed headline.

The principle edits I would suggest are in the last paragraph.

I would suggest the lead sentence read: The NRC and FEMA **stress the fact** that planning for possible emergencies is a **continual and dynamic** process.

The word "recognize" is too passive and could infer that we reluctantly recognize... An "ongoing process" similarly has no bite. Thus the suggested alternative.

Let me know what you wish to do.

Enjoy the holiday.

--Bill

CC: Maria Lopez-Otin; Vicki Bolling

## DRAFT PRESS RELEASE/SENSITIVE/CLOSE HOLD

NRC FINDS INDIAN POINT MEETS REASONABLE ASSURANCE  
CRITERIA FOR EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS① K  
LUB

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) have distinct yet coordinated responsibilities for assessing emergency preparedness associated with commercial nuclear facilities. FEMA has responsibility for assessing off-site emergency preparedness, including the coordination and implementation of radiological protection guidelines. NRC has responsibility for assessing on-site emergency planning and preparedness; the specific requirements and oversight are established for NRC licensees to ensure adequate protection of public health and safety. Ultimately, the NRC has the overall responsibility for determining that there is reasonable assurance that adequate protective measures can and will be taken in the event of a radiological emergency at an NRC licensed facility.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has received the results of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's most recent review of the adequacy of off-site emergency preparedness plans and procedures for the Indian Point nuclear power facility. FEMA has "...(we will pick up FEMA's words)..."

The NRC has determined, from its continuing evaluation of the licensee's on-site emergency planning and preparedness for radiological events, that Indian Point meets the requisite criteria for reasonable assurance of adequate protection. Considering both FEMA's off-site and NRC's on-site emergency preparedness assessments, the NRC's overall determination continues to be that Indian Point emergency preparedness is satisfactory and provides reasonable assurance of adequate protection.

The NRC and FEMA recognize that planning for possible emergencies is an ongoing process. Efforts to improve emergency preparedness associated with the Indian Point facility continue to be made by the State of New York, involved Counties, and the plant operator. The NRC will continue to work closely with FEMA, state and local officials as well as the plant operator to assure continued protection of the public health and safety.

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