

October 13, 2004

Michael B. Kaplowitz, Chairman  
Committee on Budget and Appropriations  
Westchester County Board of Legislators  
800 Michaelian Office Building  
148 Martine Avenue  
White Plains, New York 10601

Dear Mr. Kaplowitz:

On behalf of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to your August 30, 2004, letter concerning the Indian Point Nuclear Power Plants. In your letter, you reiterated your standing invitation for the NRC staff to meet with you and your fellow Westchester County Board of Legislators at a joint meeting of the Environment and Budget and Appropriations Committees.

First, let me thank you for accepting our invitation to the meeting that we plan to hold with representatives of governmental organizations from the communities surrounding Indian Point. A date has not yet been set, but we expect to hold this meeting sometime in November.

As indicated in my August 19, 2004, letter to you, the NRC is committed to responding to stakeholder interests in the safety and performance of the facilities we oversee. We have long recognized the importance and value of open communications and external stakeholder involvement. The NRC staff routinely conducts public meetings in the vicinity of the commercial nuclear power plants we regulate to provide factual information about our regulatory process and the results of NRC performance assessments; and to give members of the community and local officials the opportunity to ask questions and offer constructive comments on our oversight activities. Within the past year, there have been several public meetings conducted in the vicinity of Indian Point, such as the annual assessment meeting in April and a meeting to discuss spent fuel storage in July. Our plan to conduct a meeting with local government representatives is a furtherance of our commitment to remain open and receptive to the local community leaders and their constituents. At this meeting, you and your colleagues will have an opportunity to ask questions on a broad range of issues, such as security, and independent spent fuel storage.

M. Kaplowitz

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We believe the NRC has been responsive to the citizens and local officials in the communities surrounding Indian Point. The upcoming meeting with local government representatives is designed to provide an additional opportunity for key stakeholders to be apprised of issues of interest precluding the need for a separate meeting. The NRC's Region I staff will contact your office prior to this meeting to see if you have specific questions for the staff.

Sincerely,

***/RA/***

Ellis W. Merschoff  
Deputy Executive Director for Reactor Programs  
Office of the Executive Director for Operations

cc: Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton  
Senator Charles E. Schumer  
Representative Nita M. Lowey  
Representative Eliot L. Engel  
Representative Sue W. Kelly

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