

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

Date Printed: Jan 21, 2005 09:30

PAPER NUMBER: LTR-05-0037

LOGGING DATE: 01/19/2005

ACTION OFFICE: EDO

To: Zimmerman, NSIR

AUTHOR: Ellen Jaffee

AFFILIATION: NY

ADDRESSEE: C. Scott Vanderhoef

SUBJECT: Indian Point radiological emergency plan

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NRR
RI

ACTION: Information

DISTRIBUTION: RF

LETTER DATE: 01/11/2005

ACKNOWLEDGED No

SPECIAL HANDLING: Made publicly available in ADAMS via SECY/EDO/DPC

NOTES:

FILE LOCATION: ADAMS

DATE DUE:

DATE SIGNED:

The Legislature of Rockland County



Mr. Nils Diaz, Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Reg. Commission
One White Flint North
11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, Maryland 20852

January 11, 2005

Hon. C. Scott Vanderhoef
Rockland County Executive
11 New Hempstead Road
New City, New York 10956

Dear County Executive Vanderhoef:

Once again we strongly urge you to honor your responsibility for protecting public health and safety and withhold the submission of the County's Annual Certification Letter (ACL) for the Indian Point radiological emergency plan. There is substantial evidence that the emergency plan is inadequate to protect the public. As you are aware, the Witt Report (March 2003), which was commissioned by Governor Pataki, criticized virtually every aspect of the evacuation plans and concluded that the emergency plan for Indian Point was inadequate, key components unfixable and the region's high population density and excessive traffic congestion would only complicate evacuation for New Yorkers and residents from neighboring states.

The Witt study also found several other major flaws in the emergency plan, including the false assumption by FEMA and Indian Point's owners that parents would obey official orders to not pick up their children and instead allow school or camp officials to bus their children to reception centers in another area.

We agree that Rockland County has a superb and professional Department of Fire and Emergency Services. However, the Witt report makes it clear that even the best department could not respond to a mass evacuation, especially as it is presently proposed, given the circumstances and realities of the area.

Another major concern is the lack of confidence that emergency first responders have in the Indian Point emergency plan. In May 2003, 175 first responders, who will be on the front line in the event of a radiological emergency, signed onto a petition to FEMA and the NRC expressing their concern "that even their best efforts may not be enough to adequately protect the public health and safety of the citizens of this region."

Hon. C. Scott Vanderhoef
January 11, 2005
Page 2 of 7

While the current emergency response plan is wholly inadequate to protect the public from any event beyond a minor radioactive release at Indian Point, we are in no way advocating abandonment of the plan. In the event of an actual emergency, we fully expect the County Executives to move swiftly to implement the existing plan for what it is worth.

Since January 2004 no material changes have been made to the radiological emergency preparedness plan (REPP). In fact, new evidence of failing Indian Point siren systems and the risk of losing power to these siren systems due to no battery back-up power has come to light.

As elected officials, we promise in our oath of office to protect the public's health and safety, and to tell the public the truth. As it has been acknowledged that there is no formal certification process, we should not continue the county's involvement in this certification charade. We believe that a reasonable and responsible course of action would be for you to exercise your leadership by refusing to affix your signature to the checklist of items and drills, which the Witt report notes "are designed to meet specific regulatory requirements, rather than effectively protect a population."

The lives of our residents, families, seniors, and especially our children, are threatened. We sincerely hope that you will refuse to approve this first level of certification and join with the legislature in seeking the immediate closure, as well as the decommissioning of Indian Point. The risk from this form of power source clearly outweighs any possible benefit and we must therefore work towards developing a plan for renewable energy sources, conservation and fuel-efficient technologies for our county and the region at large.

Sincerely,



ELLEN C. JAFFEE
Legislator – District 12

Sincerely,



HARRIET D. CORNELL
Chairwoman, Rockland County Legislature

Hon. C. Scott Vanderhoef
January 11, 2005
Page 3 of 7

Sincerely,




DENISE KRONSTADT
Legislator – District 17

Sincerely,



ROBERT M. BERLINER
Legislator – District 6

Sincerely



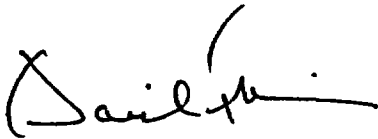
GEROLD M. BIERKER
Legislator – District 9

Sincerely



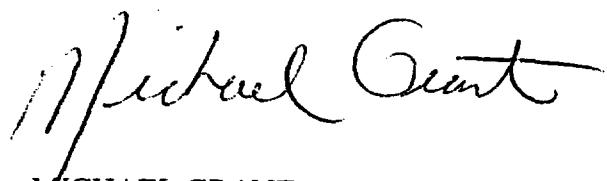
WILLIAM L. DARDEN
Legislator – District 8

Sincerely,



DAVID FRIED
Legislator – District 13

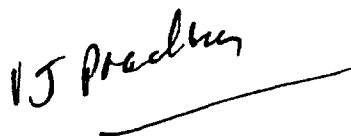
Sincerely,



MICHAEL GRANT
Legislator – District 2

Hon. C. Scott Vanderhoef
January 11, 2005
Page 4 of 7

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "VJ Pradhan", with a horizontal line drawn underneath.

VJ PRADHAN
Legislator – District 14

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Roman Rodriguez", with a horizontal line drawn underneath.

ROMAN RODRIGUEZ
Legislator – District 3

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ilan S. Schoenberger", with a horizontal line drawn underneath.

ILAN S. SCHOENBERGER
Legislator – District 4

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Philip Soskin", with a horizontal line drawn underneath.

PHILIP SOSKIN
Legislator – District 7

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kenneth P. Zebrowski", with a horizontal line drawn underneath.

KENNETH P. ZEBROWSKI
Legislator – District 5

Hon. C. Scott Vanderhoef
January 11, 2005
Page 5 of 7

CC: Hon. George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500
Hon. Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator
757 Third Ave., Suite 17-02
New York, New York 10017
Hon. Hillary Rodham Clinton
United States Senator
780 Third Avenue, Suite 2601
New York, New York 10017
Hon. Eliot L. Engel
United States Congressman
261 West Nyack Road
West Nyack, NY 10994
Hon. Nita M. Lowey
United States Congresswoman
222 Mamaroneck Avenue, Suite 310
White Plains, NY 10605
Hon. George E. Pataki
Executive Chamber
State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224
Hon. Thomas P. Morahan
158 Airport Exec. Park
Nanuet, NY 10954
NYS Attorney General Eliot Spitzer
120 Broadway
New York City, NY 10271
Hon. Andrew J. Spano, County Executive
Westchester County
Michaelian Office Bldg.
148 Martine Avenue
White Plains, NY 10601
Hon. William R. Steinhaus, County Executive
Dutchess County
County Office Bldg.
22 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

Hon. Edward A. Diana, County Executive
Orange County
County Government Center
255 Main Street
Goshen, NY 10924

Hon. Robert J. Bondi, County Executive
Putnam County
40 Gleneida Avenue
Carmel, NY 10512

Hon. Richard L. Brodsky
New York State Assemblyman
5 West Main St., Suite 205
Elmsford, NY 10523

Hon. Ryan S. Karben
New York State Assemblyman
1 Blue Hill Plaza
P. O. Box 1549, Suite 1116
Pearl River, NY 10965

Hon. Kenneth P. Zebrowski
New York State Assemblyman
67 N. Main Street
New City, NY 10956

Mr. Frank Inzirillo, Manager
Emergency Planning
Entergy – Indian Point Energy Center
295 Broadway, Suite 2
Buchanan, NY 10511

Mr. Brian E. Holian, Deputy Director
Division of Reactor Projects
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
475 Allendale Road
King of Prussia, PA 19406

Mr. Nils Diaz, Chairman
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
One White Flint North
11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Hon. C. Scott Vanderhoef
January 11, 2005
Page 7 of 7

Mr. Michael D. Brown
Under Secretary of Homeland Security for
Emergency Preparedness and Response
500 C Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20472

Ms. Lisa Rainwater Van Suntum, PhD
Indian Point Campaign Director
Riverkeeper
P. O. Box 13
Garrison, NY 10524

Ms. Maureen Ritter
46 Campbell Ave.
Suffern, NY 10901

Mr. Joseph F. Picciano
Acting Regional Director
FEMA Region II
26 Federal Plaza, Room 1307
New York, New York 10278

Mr. James W. Tuffey, Director
New York State Emergency Management Office
1220 Washington Ave., Bldg. 22
Albany, NY 12226

Hon. Bonnie Kraham, Legislator
Orange County Legislature
County Government Center
255 Main Street
Goshen, NY 10924

Hon. Paul Feiner, Supervisor
Town of Greenburgh
177 Hillside Avenue
Greenburgh, NY 10607

ECJ/HDC/DK/RMB/GMB/WLD/DF/MG/VJP/RR/ISS/PS/KPZ/la