

Act with confidence.



October 24, 2006

The Honorable Dale E. Klein
Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Chairman Klein:

I am writing to express my support for a proposal before the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to improve the safety of communities around nuclear power plants by ensuring that plants, states, and communities demonstrate results in their radiological emergency preparedness planning.

Great progress has been made in the field of radiological emergency preparedness since requirements were first established in the 1970s. Advanced communications technology, greater modeling capabilities, and a better understanding of the behavior of radioactive materials have contributed to this progress. I believe, based on my experience in emergency management, and experience gained in preparation for and publication of our report on Indian Point for Governor Pataki in 2003, that the field is now mature enough for the NRC to ensure plants can meet performance based standards for preparedness.

I urge the NRC to ensure that state and local emergency management personnel, as well as local officials and interested parties, have an important role in the development of these performance measures. These officials would be the first responders to any radiological incident and will provide valuable expertise and advice.

I commend the NRC for its efforts to further improve radiological emergency preparedness to protect public health and safety. This project will take time and resources, but will ultimately result in a more flexible and efficient program that will raise the level of protection for communities around nuclear power plants.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "James L. Witt".

James L. Witt
CEO