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FINAL REPLY:

Governor Eliot Spitzer
Albany, New York

TO:

Chairman Klein

FOR SIGNATURE OF :

** PRI **

CRC NO: 07-0293

Chairman Klein

DESC:

ROUTING:

Independent Safety Assessment of Indian Point

Reyes
Virgilio
Kane
Silber
Ordaz
Cyr/Burns
Collins, RI

DATE: 04/27/07

ASSIGNED TO:

CONTACT:

NRR

Dyer

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

Date Printed: Apr 27, 2007 13:59

PAPER NUMBER: LTR-07-0293 **LOGGING DATE:** 04/27/2007
ACTION OFFICE: EDO

AUTHOR: GOV Eliot Spitzer
AFFILIATION: NY-GOV
ADDRESSEE: CHRM Dale Klein
SUBJECT: Request for an Independent Safety Assessment of Indian Point

ACTION: Signature of Chairman
DISTRIBUTION: RF, SECY to Ack.

LETTER DATE: 04/26/2007
ACKNOWLEDGED No
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NOTES:
FILE LOCATION: ADAMS

DATE DUE: 05/11/2007 **DATE SIGNED:**

EDO --G20070291



April 26, 2007

The Honorable Dale Klein
Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Chairman Klein:

I write to express my strong support for H.R. 994 and S. 649, and to call on you to direct the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to conduct an Independent Safety Assessment of the Indian Point nuclear power plant in Westchester County, New York. I commend Congressman John Hall for his leadership in sponsoring H.R. 994, and the dedication of the bill's co-sponsors from the New York Hudson Valley—Congressman Eliot Engel, Congressman Maurice Hinchey, and Congresswoman Nita Lowey. I also applaud Senators Clinton and Schumer for leading the charge in the Senate by co-sponsoring S. 649. These bills direct the NRC to conduct an ISA of Indian Point before the plant can be relicensed. Never has the need for this type of evaluation been greater.

Indian Point's two commercial nuclear reactors are located in a densely populated area of New York, on the east bank of the Hudson River 24 miles north of New York City. According to a 2003 study by James Lee Witt Associates, 298,000 people live within the ten-mile circular area surrounding the plant. Bear Mountain State Park, Harriman State Park and the U.S. Military Academy at West Point are also located within the emergency planning zone. Given Indian Point's close proximity to New York City, a serious accident could threaten millions of people in the greater metropolitan area.

Indian Point has been plagued with significant operational difficulties. The rate of unplanned emergency shutdowns is now 5-6 times higher than the national average. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission recently announced it will fine the plant's owner, Entergy, for its failure to effectively handle something as basic as the operation of its emergency siren systems. Since 2005, radioactive water has been leaking from a spent fuel pool into groundwater beneath the power plant, and the sources of the leaks are still not known. There is significant public concern about the operation of this facility, a concern that is not unwarranted given its history of operational and safety problems.

It is imperative that an Independent Safety Assessment be conducted as soon as possible. I see no down side to conducting this assessment. In 1996, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission effectively conducted an Independent Safety Assessment of the Maine Yankee nuclear power plant. The people of the State of New York deserve nothing less.

Sincerely,

Eliot Spitzer



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