

September 4, 2007

Lisa Rainwater, PhD.
Riverkeeper, Inc.
828 South Broadway
Tarrytown, New York 10591

Dear Dr. Rainwater:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to your letter to Chairman Klein, dated July 11, 2007, requesting, "that for all pending and future relicensing applications, the generic informational public meeting on the NRC relicensing process be separated from the environmental scoping meeting, so that those communities hosting nuclear power plants have the same opportunity for public participation as that recently provided for Indian Point and other nuclear reactors prior to the NRC decision in August 2006 that combined these two meetings into one."

The concern raised in your letter of July 11 was previously raised in your letter of May 2, 2007, at a meeting between the NRC staff and Riverkeeper in Tarrytown, New York, on June 13, 2007, and in your letter of July 3, 2007.

By letter dated June 26, 2007, the NRC staff responded to your request of May 2, 2007, to provide at least three public meetings during the license renewal process for Indian Point. In our letter, we stated that the practice of combining the license renewal process overview meeting with the environmental scoping meeting was not intended to limit the level of public participation, but to more efficiently use staff resources. In addition, we explained that public participation is an important part of the license renewal review process, and we cited multiple opportunities for public involvement during our reviews.

During the meeting with Riverkeeper on June 13, 2007, the NRC staff informed you that the decision to hold a separate informational meeting for Indian Point was based on the level of public interest within the communities surrounding the facility, and that such consideration would be given to other communities in the future.

The NRC staff held a public informational meeting in Cortlandt Manor, New York, on June 27, 2007, regarding the Indian Point license renewal application. The staff decided to hold this informational public meeting, separate from the environmental scoping meeting, due to the considerable amount of public interest in the Indian Point license renewal application.

A decision to hold such additional meetings with respect to other license renewal applications will be made on a case-by-case basis in the future, as appropriate.

Sincerely,

/RA/

J. E. Dyer, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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