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**The Business Council
of Westchester**

THE COUNTY'S CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

8/10/07

72 FR 45075

(3)

September 14, 2007

Senior Project Manager Bo Pham
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
11545 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Mr. Pham:

The Business Council of Westchester is the county's largest business organization, representing nearly 1,400 members, ranging in size from multi-national corporations and mid-size businesses to professional firms, not-for-profit organizations and small business owners in every sector of the county's diverse economy. The Business Council advocates for Westchester's business community at the local, state and federal levels and works to enhance economic opportunity in Westchester by addressing a broad range of public affairs and area development, economic and business development issues that effect the growth of business in the county.

With 34,000 businesses in Westchester County – employing over 408,700 workers with a total annual payroll of more than \$19 billion – we feel the premature closure of the Indian Point Energy Center will cause irreparable damage to the regional economy due to the large amount of electricity, jobs and taxes the site provides.

From Indian Point's generation of 2,000 megawatts of much-needed electricity to its distribution of \$356 million in payroll and local purchases to the over \$50 million paid in local taxes (including sales tax, payroll taxes, property taxes and state/local income taxes), the site is a major economic engine that drives business to Westchester County and keeps businesses from running to other counties across the country.

We have seen the economic devastation caused by the dramatic disruption of electricity supply both in recent memory (Blackout of 2003), as well as the continuing hardship faced by thousands of Long Island residents who pay some of the highest utility bills in the United States because of the infamous Shoreham nuclear plant debacle. Shoreham was a clear example of the needs of the few outweighing the on-going needs of the many and the Council does not wish to see Indian Point (or the residents surrounding the facility) suffer the same fate.

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In addition, as owner and operator of Indian Point, the Entergy Corporation remains a critical, major employer and corporate philanthropist – donating millions of dollars to a myriad of worthy causes, hospitals, educational institutions, regional associations and municipalities. Without their continuing service to the community and vital investments in non-profit programs and projects, we will see a dramatic decrease in the number of non-government groups and associations serving a wide variety of constituencies – hungry, homeless, elderly, children in need, sick, infirmed, etc.

For the aforementioned reasons, The Business Council of Westchester hereby supports and petitions for the re-licensing of the Indian Point Energy Center. We look forward to hearing from you regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Paul J. Vitale". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "P".

Paul J. Vitale

Vice President, Government & Community Relations