



LINDA D. PUGLISI
TOWN SUPERVISOR

TOWN OF CORTLANDT

OFFICE OF THE SUPERVISOR
TOWN HALL
1 HEADY STREET
CORTLANDT MANOR, N.Y. 10567-1254
(914) 734-1002
(914) 734-1003 fax
www.townofcortlandt.com

TOWN BOARD

RICHARD H. BECKER
FRANCIS X. FARRELL
ANN LINDAU
JOHN E. SLOAN

January 28, 2008

NRC Officials
c/o Neil Sheehan
Region I
475 Allendale Road
King of Prussia, PA 19406-1415

Dear Mr. Neil Sheehan,

I am writing to request that the fines the NRC have cited against Entergy Nuclear for being over a year behind schedule on the new sirens be put to good use in our Cortlandt Community, instead of going into the general fund or other accounts of the NRC.

The Town of Cortlandt has design plans completed for a new Youth Center (5,100 sq. ft.) that will service our youth including unincorporated Cortlandt and the two Villages (Buchanan and Croton-on-Hudson).

Our community, as you know, is the host Town and Village for Indian Point (Entergy Nuclear). We have to bear the burden and be involved in all of the meetings, Public Hearings, problems, issues and anything related to these nuclear plants.

It takes a tremendous amount of effort for our governments to dedicate our time to these matters. In our Cortlandt government, we even created a full time position to solely address safety and security issues. Also, these sirens are spread throughout our neighborhoods.

The projected cost of our new youth center will be one and a half million dollars. Therefore, we are requesting that these fines, which we support, be returned to the community where the nuclear plants are located. If you need to see the plans, I will have a copy sent to your offices.

I am hopeful that you will see how important it is to give the fees to the host community and most importantly to our children. Please contact me as soon as possible. I look forward to your decision that will benefit our community.

Thank you,

Linda D. Puglisi

LDP/jp

Attachment (Journal News article 1/25/08)

Cc: Town Board
Jeff Tkacs, Cortlandt Safety and Security Coordinator
Glenn Cestaro, Town Comptroller
Tom Wood, Town Attorney
Ed Vergano, Town Engineer
Media



January 25, 2008

Indian Pt. fined \$650G for overdue sirens

Greg Clary
The Journal News

Federal regulators slapped Indian Point yesterday with a \$650,000 fine for failing to deliver a new emergency warning system nearly a year after it was due.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission cited two agency orders that have gone unmet as Entergy Nuclear, the plant's owner, has missed three deadlines for the 155-siren system to be operating.

Now the company has said it expects to change from the old system to the new by Aug. 14, which puts the project more than 18 months behind schedule.

"We have not ruled out further action," commission spokesman Neil Sheehan said yesterday. "The latest schedule for completion puts this out to next summer. It's clear they're going to be in continuing noncompliance, so we thought it was appropriate to take this action now."

It is Indian Point's second NRC-imposed fine for the sirens, which have cost Entergy Nuclear \$5 million more than the \$10 million initially estimated, not counting the sanctions.

NRC compliance officials sent top Entergy executives a letter yesterday, notifying them of the fine for not delivering the system, which originally was to be in place Jan. 30, 2007. The company was fined \$130,000 for missing an April 15, 2007, deadline and paid that amount without appealing it.

Normally, a base civil penalty in the amount of \$65,000 would be considered for this violation, but the NRC said the amount was increased to emphasize the importance of prompt compliance with NRC orders.

Indian Point officials said yesterday that they had just received the nine-page sanction letter from the NRC and were reviewing it.

They said they would respond to federal regulators within 30 days as required and did not expect to appeal the latest fine.

"Entergy regrets the problems that repeatedly have arisen with the new, state-of-the-art alert system it has been designing, installing and testing for communities around the Indian Point Energy Center," company spokeswoman Robyn Bentley said. "We apologize to our neighbors in those communities for the delays that have occurred in making this new system operable."

Bentley said the company was concerned about the missed deadlines and that it took the latest fine seriously.

"We are working with the four counties surrounding Indian Point, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the NRC to ensure that the remaining issues will be resolved and the system approved by FEMA as quickly as possible," Bentley said.

This isn't the largest fine ever handed down by the NRC, but it is one of the larger ones since 2000, when the agency reorganized its reactor oversight program and put more emphasis on sending inspectors in for specific problems rather than fining operators.

"The fine is in addition to that," Sheehan said of extra oversight already sent to the Buchanan plant. "Indian Point's now been fined \$780,000 for the siren problems. That sends out a very clear message that they have to do everything in their power to get this resolved."

The largest fine the NRC has issued was \$5,450,000 in 2005, for corrosion that left a football-size crater on the Davis-Besse reactor vessel head in Ohio that went undetected for a period of time.

Since 1996, Indian Point has been fined \$458,000, not including yesterday's amount, but Entergy has been fined for only the sirens since it bought the nuclear plant in 2001.

The sirens have been a constant headache for Entergy executives since the old system started balking during quarterly tests and prompted Sen. Hillary Clinton, D-N.Y., to add a small amendment to the Energy Act of 2005 that required backup power for siren systems for any plant within an area of a certain size. Only Indian Point met the criteria, and plant officials agreed later that year to put in a completely new system.

Since then, there have been more stops than starts for the new sirens, and the four counties in the 10-mile evacuation radius around Indian Point - Westchester, Rockland, Putnam and Orange - are relying on the old system to alert residents in the event of an emergency. The old system has tested successfully once a quarter since last year.

Clinton wanted more significant sanctions.

"I am very disappointed in today's NRC decision," Clinton said in an e-mail. "The fine announced today amounts to another slap on the wrist for Entergy, which has repeatedly failed to meet deadlines at Indian Point. ... The people of New York deserve better from Entergy and from the federal agencies charged with overseeing Indian Point. In addition, I urge the NRC to work with me and other members of Congress to take any steps that are necessary to direct these fines to emergency preparedness in the counties surrounding Indian Point."

County officials on both sides of the Hudson applauded the sanction, noting the long delay in getting the new sirens working.

"The sirens should have been up. They should have been up a year ago," said Susan Tolchin, chief adviser to Westchester County Executive Andrew Spano. "Entergy should be fined, but local taxpayers ought to be getting the money. We asked for the money to go to the counties last time and were turned down. We're going to ask for it again."

Rockland County Executive C. Scott Vanderhoef continued to push for completion of the project.

"Today's enforcement action by the NRC delivers the strong message that they want this emergency notification system done right, and that additional delays won't be tolerated," Vanderhoef said, agreeing that the money should be distributed to the counties for emergency operations equipment. "The safety of the public should not be taken lightly."