

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 6, 2009

Mr. Eric Leeds  
Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Dear Mr. Leeds:

It has come to our attention that on Monday, February 16, 2009, a sizeable water leak was inadvertently discovered at the Indian Point Energy Center (IPEC). The limited information currently available indicates that the leak involved a pipe of the condensate return system of the Unit 2 reactor. Press reports indicate that some radioactive material may have escaped as a result of this leak.

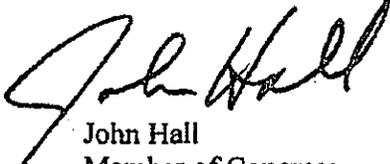
The leak, and its apparently serendipitous discovery, demonstrates not only serious deterioration in the physical plant of IPEC but it also calls into question whether IPEC has a program for dealing with its aging infrastructure that is capable of preventing, or even detecting, such deterioration. This is a real concern to us, and to many of our constituents, given that Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc., is currently seeking to extend IPEC's license for an additional 20 years beyond the plant's current 40 year license term.

Despite the seriousness of this event, Entergy released only minimal information about the leak, and failed to do even that in a timely manner. This is alarming given the obvious concerns associated with leaking plant systems. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission must ensure that the public is fully informed of these kinds of occurrences.

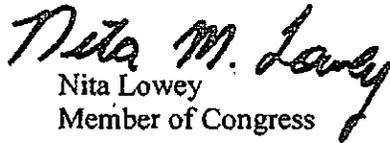
In our view, the possible leaking of radioactive material from an aging plant which is undergoing relicensing warrants a comprehensive investigation by the NRC. Therefore we respectfully request that the NRC to conduct such an investigation and to provide the public with detailed information relating to this and any other similar events at IPEC. Without such information, the public cannot be expected to be informed enough to adequately comment on the relicensing application during the public hearing process.

We appreciate your cooperation in this matter, and thank you in advance for your swift consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

  
John Hall  
Member of Congress

  
Maurice Hinchey  
Member of Congress

  
Nita Lowey  
Member of Congress

  
Eliot Engel  
Member of Congress

cc: Samuel Collins  
Regional Administrator  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission Region 1  
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