

June 12, 2009

Miss Alison Klein  
346 East 20<sup>th</sup> Street, Apartment #8  
New York, New York 10003

Dear Miss Klein:

I am responding to a letter you wrote to Mel Gray of this office on May 18<sup>th</sup>. The letter was sent to our Washington office and took some time to get routed to the office where Mr. Gray and I work, which is just outside Philadelphia. I handle technical communications for our office and reply back to concerned citizens, local officials, and members of Congress who write to us with nuclear safety questions and concerns. To date, you are my youngest author – I am pleased to see you are taking such an interest in matters involving your government at such a young age!

In your letter, you expressed a concern about a recent piping leak at Indian Point. This piping leak occurred from a small hole that rusted through a pipe buried seven (7) feet underground; thus the condition of the pipe was not visible to Mr. Gray's inspectors. Once Entergy identified tell-tale signs of leakage, the pipe was promptly dug up and the corroded section replaced in a few days. The pipe which corroded did not perform a nuclear safety function. Most nuclear power plant piping, particularly that which performs a nuclear safety function, runs above ground through buildings and thus is visible and accessible to our inspectors and the Indian Point staff.

As for the safety of nuclear power plants, I urge you to learn more about the matter by visiting the NRC's website at [www.nrc.gov](http://www.nrc.gov). It contains a lot of information about nuclear power plant design, reactor safety features, nuclear security, emergency preparedness, the nuclear fuel cycle, and radioactive waste disposal. Check out the icon marked, "For Students & Teachers." I urge you to learn more about this energy source, as well as the many other alternative energy technologies which do not burn fossil fuels, in school science class in the coming years.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission was established by Congress to enable the safe use of nuclear materials for the public's benefit. These uses not only include the production of electricity, but also its use in nuclear medicine, research, and other industrial processes. Many people (such as you) have very strong opinions for and against the use of nuclear power for electricity production, although I have yet to meet anyone in my 25 year career who strongly opposed the use of nuclear materials for medical tests and radiation therapy for cancer treatment. However, my role, and the mission of the NRC, is not to promote the use of nuclear materials, but rather ensure it is used in a manner that protects public health and safety.

If you have any other questions or concerns, or need any help on a future science paper involving nuclear energy, feel free to give me a call at (610) 337-5065.

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Richard S. Barkley, PE  
Technical Communications Assistant

June 12, 2009

Miss Alison Klein  
346 East 20<sup>th</sup> Street, Apartment #8  
New York, New York 10003

Dear Miss Klein:

I am responding to a letter you wrote to Mel Gray of this office on May 18<sup>th</sup>. The letter was sent to our Washington office and took some time to get routed to the office where Mr. Gray and I work, which is just outside Philadelphia. I handle technical communications for our office and reply back to concerned citizens, local officials, and members of Congress who write to us with nuclear safety questions and concerns. To date, you are my youngest author – I am pleased to see you are taking such an interest in matters involving your government at such a young age!

In your letter, you expressed a concern about a recent piping leak at Indian Point. This piping leak occurred from a small hole that rusted through a pipe buried seven (7) feet underground; thus the condition of the pipe was not visible to Mr. Gray's inspectors. Once Entergy identified tell-tale signs of leakage, the pipe was promptly dug up and the corroded section replaced in a few days. The pipe which corroded did not perform a nuclear safety function. Most nuclear power plant piping, particularly that which performs a nuclear safety function, runs above ground through buildings and thus is visible and accessible to our inspectors and the Indian Point staff.

As for the safety of nuclear power plants, I urge you to learn more about the matter by visiting the NRC's website at [www.nrc.gov](http://www.nrc.gov). It contains a lot of information about nuclear power plant design, reactor safety features, nuclear security, emergency preparedness, the nuclear fuel cycle, and radioactive waste disposal. Check out the icon marked, "For Students & Teachers." I urge you to learn more about this energy source, as well as the many other alternative energy technologies which do not burn fossil fuels, in school science class in the coming years.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission was established by Congress to enable the safe use of nuclear materials for the public's benefit. These uses not only include the production of electricity, but also use in nuclear medicine, research, and other industrial processes. Many people (such as you) have very strong opinions for and against the use of nuclear power for electricity production, although I have yet to meet anyone in my 25 year career who strongly opposed the use of nuclear materials for medical tests and radiation therapy for cancer treatment. However, my role, and the mission of the NRC, is not to promote the use of nuclear materials, but rather ensure it is used in a manner that protects public health and safety.

If you have any other questions or concerns, or need any help on a future science paper involving nuclear energy, feel free to give me a call at (610) 337-5065.

Sincerely,  
**/RA/**

Richard S. Barkley, PE  
Technical Communications Assistant

**SUNSI Review Complete: RSB (Reviewer's Initials)**

DOCUMENT NAME: G:\ORA\Barkley\Letter to Miss Alison Klein.doc

After declaring this document "An Official Agency Record" it will be released to the Public.

To receive a copy of this document, indicate in the box: "C" = Copy without attachment/enclosure "E" = Copy with attachment/enclosure "N" = No copy

OFFICE	RI/TCA	RI/DRP	RI/RA					
NAME	RBarkley	MGary	SCollins					
DATE	06/11/09	06/11/09	06/12/09					

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

346 Est. 20<sup>th</sup> street apt. 8

New York, NY 10003

May 18, 2008

U.S. Nuclear regulatory commission

Mail stop 0-1064

Dear Mr. Gray,

Your job is to protect us when you go in and inspect those plants. We know Nuclear power plants are dangerous. You say time and time again they are not, we know that they are, so stop pretending. I can name, maybe, 10 problems off the bat, and I know that's just the tip of the iceberg. Don't you realize how many lives you put in danger, every day? I ask you to shut down the plants that need to be shut down, and make the ones that pass inspection better.

Recently we found out there was a leak at the nuclear power plant, Indian point2. As a New Yorker, I thank you for finding this leak before we all blew up, or just died of the radioactive waves. I am not thanking you however, for not finding this problem before it happened. If you actually looked at the piping with your own **two eyes**, you may have caught this before it happened. By the way, have you ever thought about how strange this whole process is? I mean, you have to split all these uranium atoms to heat up water, so the steam can turn the turbine. But before this we have to mine the uranium, transport the uranium, enrich the uranium, and then transport the uranium back to the plant. We do all this work before hand, just to split a few atoms, and then we have to start all over again. Take a step back. Now do you see what I'm talking about? Yes, I do think nuclear power is (a shade) better the coal and oil, but then again, I will have to live with all this radioactive waste for the rest of my life, and yucca Mt. just won't cut it.

I know what you (or your assistant) may be thinking. Why is a little 7<sup>th</sup> grader mailing me a letter? They don't even know the first thing about nuclear power. Your right, I don't. I don't know anything about nuclear power except what I have learned in my class room. So yes, I don't know exactly how Indian point works, and no, I don't have some degree in nuclear power, but I do have a moral conscience. I do know what effect this has on the environment, nuclear power in not environmentally sound, and it does not take a degree in nuclear power to figure that

out. This little 7th grader, and the rest of her generation, is going to be the one to deal with the climate crises more than your generation did(yay! We will have tons of fun with that!), so yes, I am more than a little worried about what the nuclear plants are doing. What if Indian point has another crack? What if something happens to the core? China syndrome, here we come! Look, I'm still a kid, 13 years of age, and I'm in 7<sup>th</sup> grade, so I really hope that doesn't happen, because we all know a China syndrome would kill us. This makes it all the more important that you do your job.

Anyways, I am in school to learn, and it will only help me if you are to respond, if your letter is strong, it may even make me change my views (but most likely not)! If you read this, and I will be very, very surprised if you do, it would be nice to get a letter... even if it IS a form letter.

Respectfully yours,

Alison Klein