

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: 04/01/11

EDO CONTROL: G20110181
DOC DT: 03/15/11
FINAL REPLY:

Representative Nita M. Lowey

TO:

Chairman Jaczko

FOR SIGNATURE OF :

** PRI **

CRC NO: 11-0119

Chairman Jaczko

DESC:

ROUTING:

Indian Point (EDATS: SECY-2011-0147)

Borchardt
Weber
Virgilio
Ash
Muessle
OGC/GC
Wiggins, NSIR
Leeds, NRR
Dean, RI
Burns, OGC
Schmidt, OCA

DATE: 03/16/11

ASSIGNED TO:

CONTACT:

EDO

Rihm

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

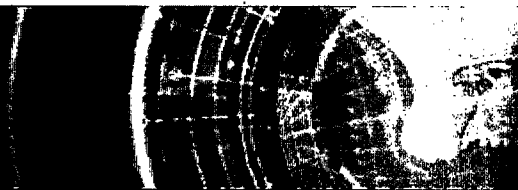
Please prepare response in accordance with OEDO Notice 2009-0441-02 (ML093290179). NSIR, NRR and Region I to provide input to Roger Rihm, OEDO, if required. Roger Rihm will coordinate response with OGC and OCA.

Template: SECY-017

E-RIDS: SECY-01

EDATS

Electronic Document and Action Tracking System



EDATS Number: SECY-2011-0147

Source: SECY

General Information

Assigned To: OEDO

OEDO Due Date: 4/1/2011 11:00 PM

Other Assignees:

SECY Due Date: 4/5/2011 11:00 PM

Subject: Indian Point

Description:

CC Routing: NSIR; NRR; RegionI; OGC; OCA

ADAMS Accession Numbers - Incoming: NONE

Response/Package: NONE

Other Information

Cross Reference Number: G20110181, LTR-11-0119

Staff Initiated: NO

Related Task:

Recurring Item: NO

File Routing: EDATS

Agency Lesson Learned: NO

OEDO Monthly Report Item: NO

Process Information

Action Type: Letter

Priority: Medium

Signature Level: Chairman Jaczko

Sensitivity: None

Urgency: NO

Approval Level: No Approval Required

OEDO Concurrence: YES

OCM Concurrence: NO

OCA Concurrence: NO

Special Instructions: Please prepare response in accordance with OEDO Notice 2009-0441-02 (ML093290179). NSIR, NRR and Region I to provide input to Roger Rihm, OEDO, if required. Roger Rihm will coordinate response with OGC and OCA.

Document Information

Originator Name: Nita M. Lowey

Date of Incoming: 3/15/2011

Originating Organization: Congress

Document Received by SECY Date: 3/16/2011

Addressee: Chairman Jaczko

Date Response Requested by Originator: NONE

Incoming Task Received: Letter

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

Date Printed: Mar 16, 2011 12:02

PAPER NUMBER: LTR-11-0119 **LOGGING DATE:** 03/15/2011
ACTION OFFICE: EDO

AUTHOR: REP Nita Lowey
AFFILIATION: CONG
ADDRESSEE: Gregory Jaczko
SUBJECT: Indian Point

ACTION: Signature of Chairman
DISTRIBUTION: RF, OCA to Ack

LETTER DATE: 03/15/2011
ACKNOWLEDGED: No
SPECIAL HANDLING: Commission Correspondence

NOTES:

FILE LOCATION: ADAMS

DATE DUE: ~~03/30/2011~~
4/5/2011 **DATE SIGNED:**

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES:

RANKING MEMBER,
STATE, FOREIGN OPERATIONS, AND
RELATED PROGRAMS

LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
AND EDUCATION

HOMELAND SECURITY



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Chairman Gregory B. Jaczko
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mail Stop O-16G4
Washington, DC 20555-0001

March 15, 2011

Dear Chairman Jaczko:

The tragedy in Japan and the threat of meltdowns at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station shine a new light on the need for the heightened evaluation of nuclear power plants within high-population areas. Following the Japan tragedy, it is imperative that the NRC evaluate all possible threats, including terrorism, natural disasters, and the challenges that must be met in developing safety standards and evacuation procedures while determining the re-licensing of the Indian Point Nuclear Facility in Buchanan, New York.

A 2008 study by seismologists at the Columbia University Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory found that earthquakes in the New York metropolitan area are common and that risks are particularly high due to infrastructure and high population. A 3.9 magnitude earthquake occurred in the Atlantic Ocean approximately 80 miles off Long Island as recently as November 30, 2010. In fact, there have been five earthquakes in the same area in the past two decades, including a 4.7 magnitude earthquake in 1992.

The Ramapo Seismic Zone is a particular threat because the zone passes within two miles of Indian Point. The Ramapo Seismic Zone includes the Dobbs Ferry fault in Westchester, which generated a 4.1 magnitude earthquake in 1985. The Columbia University study suggests that this pattern of subtle but active faults increases the risk to the New York City area and that an earthquake with a magnitude of 7.0 on the Richter scale is within reach. Disturbingly, Entergy measures the risk of an earthquake near Indian Point to be between 1.0 and 3.0 on the Richter scale, despite evidence to the contrary.

As our nation stands ready to assist the Japanese to calm this potential nuclear meltdown and disaster, we must not let the same mistakes happen on our shores. The NRC should study Indian Point's risk of and ability to sustain a disaster, including the impact of earthquakes and hurricanes, as well as collateral impacts such as loss of power, inability to cool reactors, and emergency evacuation routes. The NRC should evaluate how a similar incident in the New York metropolitan area could be further complicated due to a dramatically higher population and the effectiveness of proposed evacuation routes. We simply cannot allow those who live in the New York metropolitan area to be susceptible to such risks.

Sincerely,

Nita M. Lowey
Member of Congress