

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: 05/12/11

EDO CONTROL: G20110298
DOC DT: 03/24/11
FINAL REPLY:

Representative Nita M. Lowey
(White House Referral)

TO:

President Obama

FOR SIGNATURE OF :

** GRN **

CRC NO: 11-0240

Borchardt, EDO

DESC:

ROUTING:

Urges White House to Coordinate with NRC and FEMA
to Ensure Soundness of the Emergency Evacuation
Process/Full Consideration of the Risks and
Consequences Associated with Indian Point
(EDATS: SECY-2011-0260)

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

DATE: 04/26/11

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 to coordinate response with
OGC and OCA.

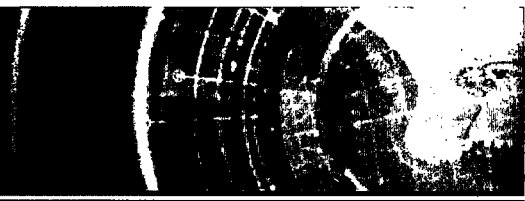
Provide copy of response to SECY for closeout with
the White House Document Tracking Unit.

Template: SECY-017

ERIDS: SECY-01

EDATS

Electronic Document and Action Tracking System



EDATS Number: SECY-2011-0260

Source: SECY

General Information

Assigned To: OEDO

OEDO Due Date: 5/12/2011 11:00 PM

Other Assignees:

SECY Due Date: 5/16/2011 11:00 PM

Subject: Urges White House to Coordinate with NRC and FEMA to Ensure Soundness of the Emergency Evacuation Process/Full Consideration of the Risks and Consequences Associated with Indian Point

Description:

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

ADAMS Accession Numbers - Incoming: NONE

Response/Package: NONE

Other Information

Cross Reference Number: G20110298, LTR-11-0240, White House 1052167

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

Sensitivity: None

Signature Level: EDO

Urgency: NO

Approval Level: No Approval Required

OEDO Concurrence: NO

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.

Provide copy of response to SECY for closeout with the White House Document Tracking Unit.

Document Information

Originator Name: Representative Nita M. Lowey

Date of Incoming: 3/24/2011

Originating Organization: Congress

Document Received by SECY Date: 4/26/2011

Addressee: President Barack Obama

Date Response Requested by Originator: NONE

Incoming Task Received: Letter

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

Date Printed: Apr 22, 2011 14:38

PAPER NUMBER: LTR-11-0240 **LOGGING DATE:** 04/21/2011
ACTION OFFICE: EDO

AUTHOR: REP Nita Lowey
AFFILIATION: CONG
ADDRESSEE: PRES Barack Obama
SUBJECT: Urges the White House to coordinate with the NRC and FEMA to ensure the soundness of the emergency evacuation process and give full consideration of the risks and consequences associated with Indian Point etc;

ACTION: Signature of EDO
DISTRIBUTION: OCA to Ack

LETTER DATE: 03/24/2011
ACKNOWLEDGED No
SPECIAL HANDLING: Provide copy of response to SECY for closeout with the White House Document Tracking Unit
NOTES: White House Referral #1052167
FILE LOCATION: ADAMS
DATE DUE: 05/16/2011 **DATE SIGNED:**

EDO --G20110298

1052167

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS



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Chairman of
BANKING, FINANCIAL,
STATE, FOREIGN OPERATIONS, AND
INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

LEADS, HEAD OF ANY HUMAN SUBJECTS,
AND CONFIDENTIAL

DOMESTIC SECURITY

Nita M. Lowey
Congress of the United States
18th District, New York

March 24, 2011

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

I was pleased to read the comments from Department of Energy Secretary Chu on March 21, 2011, in which he stated that nuclear power plants in high population areas with inadequate evacuation plans should receive further study and that officials should determine if these plants "should remain" in light of the risks.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is not permitted to take into account the current environment, including high population density, risk of a terror event, or evacuation plans in determining re-licensing. I am deeply troubled by this regulatory restriction.

As you may know, Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant in Buchanan, New York, is located within 30 miles of New York City. If a 50-mile evacuation were ordered, approximately 21 million people would be forced to flee, including the entire population of New York City and its northern suburbs in Westchester and Rockland Counties. Furthermore, an evacuation route from New York City would send most residents north, through Westchester, and directly toward Indian Point. If a manmade or natural disaster were to hit New York City, the entire evacuating population would be stuck between a disaster zone and a nuclear facility with decades of security and environmental hazards. We simply cannot accept such risks.

I have supported the Department of Energy's loan guarantee programs, including those for nuclear power. I believe that the nation's energy future must involve a broad assortment of energy production. However, construction of a nuclear power plant within a 50-mile radius of the most populated area in the country would not be permitted today, nor should re-licensing for such a plant be allowed.

The Department of Energy is tasked with promoting nuclear energy and making our energy supply safe and affordable. I respectfully request that you use the full weight of the Department of Energy to develop comprehensive replacement energy plans to offset the 2,000 megawatts of energy provided annually by Indian Point.

In addition, Indian Point is caught in a regulatory nexus between the NRC's deferential regulation of the facility and FEMA's deferential regulation of the evacuation plans. Each entity rubberstamps the findings of the other without truly identifying or addressing major challenges such as the complications of a mass evacuation or the health risks due to a release of radiation in a highly populated area. The health, safety, and security of New York's residents hang in the balance. I respectfully request that White House officials directly coordinate with the NRC and FEMA to ensure the soundness of the emergency evacuation process and give full consideration of the risks and consequences associated with Indian Point's surroundings during the re-licensing process it will undergo in 2013 and 2015.

I look forward to working with you and Secretary Chu on this important task of identifying replacement power.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Nita M. Lowey". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Nita M. Lowey
Member of Congress

CC: Department of Energy Secretary Stephen Chu
CC: Nuclear Regulatory Commission Chairman Gregory Jaczko
CC: Federal Emergency Management Agency Administrator W. Craig Fugate



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

April 11, 2011

Ms. Annette Vietti-Cook
Secretary
Office of the Secretary of the Commission
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
One White Flint North Building, Room 16H3
11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852-2738

Dear Ms. Vietti-Cook

On March ~~29~~²⁴, 2011, the enclosed letter to the President from Congresswoman Nita M. Lowey was forwarded to the Department of Energy for response. Because the subject of the letter does not fall within the purview of the Department of Energy, we are forwarding the letter to your agency:

If you have any questions, please call me on 202-586-8923.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brenda Mackall".

Brenda L. Mackall
Work Group Leader
Correspondence and Records Management
Office of the Executive Secretariat

Enclosure

