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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3205

May 6, 2013

The Honorable W. Craig Fugate
Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Washington, DC 20472

The Honorable Allison M. Macfarlane
Chairwoman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

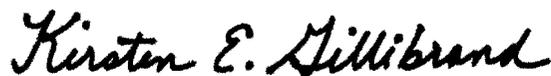
Dear Administrator Fugate and Chairwoman Macfarlane,

I write to express concern about the findings from a recent Government Accountability Office (GAO) report (March 2013) regarding the lack of information as to how residents outside of the 10-mile emergency planning zone would react in an emergency. According to the GAO, neither the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), nor the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has ever examined public awareness outside of this 10-mile zone. I am especially concerned about the implications of these findings for Indian Point Energy Center in Buchanan, New York. Given the population density, traffic congestion, and infrastructure challenges in the so called "shadow evacuation zone" surrounding Indian Point, I am especially concerned about the potential impacts shadow zone reactions could have on emergency response activities. I urge you to respond to the GAO report and comment on how your agencies plan to fully understand, and prepare for, the potential reaction of constituents in the shadow evacuation zone in order to appropriately and safely respond to an emergency situation.

According to the GAO, assumptions are being used to estimate the number of people, and the manner in which they would react to an event at Indian Point. The GAO questioned the basis for these assumptions about how many people from beyond the official evacuation zone would flee in the event of an emergency. I believe it is important to assess the potential shadow zone reaction using actual data and information, in order to accurately develop and implement an emergency plan to mitigate congestion that would impede plant neighbors who are directed to leave. I respectfully request that your agencies employ an independent entity to collect data and information toward this end, and that this information be taken into consideration for all future determinations related to Indian Point.

Ensuring safety at the Indian Point Energy Center and its surrounding population is the highest priority, especially considering the large number of New Yorkers who live and work in close proximity to the site. I urge you to move forward with these examinations in an independent manner that promotes transparency and inclusivity. I ask that you solicit public comments and input from local officials, communicate openly with the public concerning your findings, and inform the people of New York with as much information as possible. Should you or your staff wish to further discuss this issue, please contact Jamal Halepota, of my staff, at 202-224-4451 or Jamal_Halepota@gillibrand.senate.gov.

Sincerely,



Kirsten E. Gillibrand
United States Senator