

From: Burritt, Arthur

ADAMS ACCESSION NO: ML14176A143

Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2014 4:12 PM

To: mbs@ourrocklandoffice.com

Subject: Location of the Indian Point Annual Assessment Meeting

Dear Ms. Shapiro:

I am writing in response to your May 27, 2014, letter to NRC Chairman Allison M. Macfarlane regarding our Annual Assessment meeting for the Indian Point nuclear power plant. That meeting took place on June 4, 2014, in Cortlandt Manor, N.Y. As the NRC Region I Branch Chief responsible for Indian Point, I served as the coordinator for the meeting. Your letter raises concerns about the location of the meeting and about why it was not transcribed.

The planning for this year's Annual Assessment meeting included visits to a number of venues near the Indian Point facility. The Colonial Terrace was chosen as the meeting's location because of its availability, ability to accommodate a sizable audience, and the fact that it is within the 10-mile-radius Emergency Planning Zone for Indian Point. With respect to the last factor, the location allowed for easier access to those who live in communities near the plant, as opposed to further locations such as in Tarrytown, NY.

On the subject of transcription, Annual Assessment meetings are intended to be a public outreach information event and not a decision-making session or one at which the NRC is soliciting formal testimony, as is the case at a hearing. We hold hundreds of public meetings each year and must balance the agency's commitment to openness with attention to our fiscal responsibilities. As such, many of our meetings are not transcribed or video-recorded. We engage in active listening and note-taking during these meetings and do our best to respond to key questions and concerns. If we cannot answer a question on the spot, we provide a response sometime afterwards when an individual requests a reply.

Each year we look at ways to improve public meetings. The Chairman has tasked the staff with looking at how we can improve NRC meetings, and an initiative to do that will be starting soon. This initiative includes determining ways to better document public meetings, such as considering the use of transcription. Thank you for your questions regarding the Indian Point Annual Assessment meeting. I hope this response addresses your concerns.

Sincerely,
Arthur Burritt, Branch Chief
Region I Division of Reactor Projects