

March 10, 2016

The Honorable Nita M. Lowey
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Lowey:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to your letter of February 8, 2016, regarding the recent tritium leak at the Indian Point Energy Center. Let me first assure you that there is no health risk to the public due to the increased tritium levels detected and that the quantity of radioactivity in the leak is a small fraction of the plant's authorized effluent limit.

Since the licensee notified the NRC of the elevated tritium levels on February 5th, we have been closely observing the licensee's remedial actions and regularly monitoring the status of the leak and tritium levels. This is part of our independent assessment of the cause of the leak, which also includes NRC inspections and other oversight activities. Our inspectors are reviewing Entergy's actions to mitigate the potential impacts of the leak (e.g., installation of a low-flow pumping system), and assessing the timeliness of actions to decrease the local concentrations of tritium. We will provide our assessment in an inspection report that is expected to be issued in mid-May, and we will communicate those results to our Federal and State partners.

I understand your concerns and want you to know that NRC is taking all appropriate action to ensure this issue is fully addressed. If you need any additional information, please contact me or Eugene Dacus, Director of the Office of Congressional Affairs, at (301) 415-1776.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Stephen G. Burns