

March 1, 2002

The Honorable Sandra R. Galef
New York State Assembly
Legislative Office Building, Room 540
Albany, New York 12248

Dear Ms. Galef:

I am responding on behalf of the Commission to your letter of December 7, 2001, concerning resident inspector staffing at the Indian Point 2 and 3 nuclear power stations. You urged the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to continue to maintain at least two on-site inspectors at each of the Indian Point 2 and 3 nuclear power stations owned by Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.

At present, there are four resident inspectors assigned to the Indian Point plants, which is more than the number of resident inspectors usually assigned at most two-unit sites. The NRC has maintained a heightened level of inspections at Indian Point 2 in light of performance issues that have existed at the plant. Given the significant programmatic, procedural, and organizational differences between the two units and performance issues at Indian Point 2, it will be some time before we reassess our inspection staffing needs. The total amount of inspection resources at the Indian Point plants will be determined by criteria established by the NRC's Reactor Oversight Program.

The NRC staff is completing its annual assessment of performance at the Indian Point plants and will be presenting the results of that assessment at a public meeting. The meeting is currently scheduled for March 14, 2002. The NRC staff looks forward to discussing these issues with you and others at that meeting.

If you have any further questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Richard A. Meserve