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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3204

October 15, 2001

The Honorable Richard A. Meserve
Chairman
United States Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your rapid response to my request for a classified briefing on the security of all nuclear power plants in New York State. I look forward to our meeting on Wednesday, October 17th. During the meeting, I would also like to discuss the actions being taken by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to review and appropriately revise the NRC's security regulations and procedures and to assess vulnerabilities at nuclear facilities across the country. I would like the discussions to include potential changes to the Atomic Energy Act that may be necessary to ensure the highest possible level of security at our nation's nuclear power plants and other nuclear facilities.

Specifically, I would like to discuss the nuclear power plants located in New York State, including the two plants located at Indian Point in Westchester County; Nine Mile 1 and 2 and the James A. Fitzpatrick plants in Oswego County; and the Robert E. Ginna plant in Wayne County. I would like to know the range of actions being taken to guard these plants against attempted sabotage, such as increased patrols (including air and water patrols) and the possibility of establishing no fly zones over these facilities. I would also like to discuss conducting new force-on-force tests at these facilities, and to review the results of past force-on-force tests conducted at New York facilities under the Operational Safeguards Response Evaluation program. In addition, I would like to discuss actions, including the development of adequate evacuation plans, being taken to adequately protect surrounding communities in the event of a plant disruption of any sort, whether accidental or criminal in nature.

Additionally, I would like to discuss specific actions being taken at the Indian Point 2 plant. As you know, Indian Point 2 is of particular concern to many New Yorkers because of its performance history and its close proximity to a heavily populated area. I would like to address both of these issues in our briefing. I would also like to discuss the emergency preparedness weaknesses at the plant identified in the General Accounting Office's July 2001 report and all actions being taken to address these weaknesses, including improving communications with local emergency response agencies.

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In light of the horrible events of September 11, 2001 I believe that we need to re-examine the federal government's responsibilities with respect to security at our nation's nuclear facilities. I hope that Wednesday will be the beginning of ongoing discussions of the efforts needed to ensure the security of our nuclear facilities and the communities in which they are located.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hillary Rodham Clinton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Hillary Rodham Clinton

CC: The Honorable Tom Ridge