

July 13, 2003

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Schumer:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to your letter of June 2, 2003, in which you request that NRC and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) representatives meet with local officials and the public to discuss emergency planning for the Indian Point nuclear power plants. Unfortunately, we were unable to participate in a public forum held on May 13, 2003, in Orange County, New York, due to other pressing regulatory activities.

As you know, NRC strives to conduct as much of our work as possible in an open arena. In particular, we have sought to understand the concerns of and communicate with the citizens and local officials regarding the Indian Point facility. In the last three years, we have held more than a dozen public meetings in the local area, providing both NRC inspection information and assessments of licensee performance. For example, we held a public meeting in Buchanan on April 28, 2003, to discuss our assessment of Entergy's performance at the plants. We also participated in several forums on safety and security at Indian Point, including two earlier this year.

Currently, the concerns of the public and elected officials relate principally to emergency preparedness and security as it may affect emergency response. As you are aware, FEMA is actively reviewing State and county documents, as well as other information, to determine whether offsite plans and preparedness provide reasonable assurance that appropriate measures can and will be taken to adequately protect the public in the event of a radiological emergency. We will continue our efforts to keep the public informed and provide opportunities to interact with us in future meetings. We routinely provide notice of future meetings at least ten days in advance on our web site at [www.nrc.gov](http://www.nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Nils J. Diaz