

TAC Nos. MC0943-1P2
MC0944-1P3

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: 10/15/03

EDO CONTROL: G20030601

DOC DT: 09/24/03

FINAL REPLY:

Representative Maurice D. Hinchey

TO:

Chairman Diaz

FOR SIGNATURE OF :

** PRI **

CRC NO: 03-0655

Chairman Diaz

DESC:

Shutdown of Indian Point - UCS/Riverkeeper, Inc.

ROUTING:

Travers
Norry
Paperiello
Kane
Collins
Dean
Burns
Miller, RI
Cyr, OGC
Skay, NRR
Goldberg, OGC

DATE: 10/03/03

ASSIGNED TO:

CONTACT:

NRR

Dyer

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

Ref. G20030545.

Work with OCA to notify Rep. Hinchey's office to determine if his letter is to be handled under the 2.206 petition process. Notify OEDO of this determination.

Template: SEC4-017

E-IDS: SEC4-01

**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET**

Date Printed: Oct 02, 2003 10:29

PAPER NUMBER: LTR-03-0655 **LOGGING DATE:** 10/02/2003
ACTION OFFICE: EDO

AUTHOR: Maurice Hinchey
AFFILIATION: REP
ADDRESSEE: Nils Diaz
SUBJECT: Urges the NRC to order the immediate shutdown of the Indian Point nuclear power plant

ACTION: Signature of Chairman
DISTRIBUTION: RF, OCA to Ack

LETTER DATE: 09/24/2003
ACKNOWLEDGED: No
SPECIAL HANDLING:

NOTES: Commission Correspondence
FILE LOCATION: ADAMS

DATE DUE: 10/17/2003 **DATE SIGNED:**

EDO --G20030601

MAURICE D. HINCHEY
22ND DISTRICT, NEW YORK
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT,
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION,
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September 24, 2003

The Honorable Nils. J. Diaz, Ph.D.
Chairman
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Chairman Diaz:

I'm writing to urge the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission to order the immediate shutdown of the Indian Point nuclear power plant in accordance with the primary request made in the September 8, 2003 petition that was submitted by the Union of Concerned Scientists and Riverkeeper, Inc. The focus of the UCS-Riverkeeper petition is the pumps in Indian Point's containment buildings that provide the primary source of coolant in case of major pipe breaks at the reactors.

In the event of a pipe break, hot water pouring from the system would instantly turn to steam, which would condense in a huge pool on the floor of the containment building. The sump pumps in the facility are designed to re-circulate the water back through the reactors to prevent fuel meltdown and the possible release of radiation.

However, agency studies have found that the superheated steam could cause insulation to disintegrate and possibly clog the pumps. If that were to happen, the water would not be able to be re-circulated and a meltdown and subsequent radioactive release could occur. A study prepared for the NRC by the Los Alamos National Laboratory concluded that the chances of a reactor meltdown increase by nearly a factor of 100 at Indian Point because the plant's containment sumps are "almost certain" to be blocked with debris during an accident.

The Los Alamos study rejects the possibility that clogging in the event of a loss of coolant accident at Indian Point could be prevented by other safety measures. "The indicated outcome is almost certain," the report argued. "Consideration of all identified uncertainties has been made, none has been found to have a credible effect on the outcome."

Enclosed for the Commission are two copies of the September 8, 2003 petition submitted by the Union of Concerned Scientists and Riverkeeper, Inc. The petition requests that the Commission order the immediate shutdown of the Indian Point nuclear power plant until the pumps in the containment buildings are repaired or replaced. The petition also requests that the Commission conduct a full-scale inspection of the Indian Point nuclear power plant to determine the extent of the damage to the pumps and the containment buildings.

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PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

I urge the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to order the immediate shutdown of Indian Point and instruct Entergy to fix this significant safety problem that poses a direct threat to public health and the environment.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maurice D. Hinchey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and a long, sweeping underline.

Maurice D. Hinchey

MDH:dja