

October 1, 2004

The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Clinton:

On behalf of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am writing in response to your letter dated September 29, 2004, requesting an immediate update in regard to several concerns about the Indian Point Energy Center. Specifically, you requested a detailed update on the contingency plan as a whole in case of a strike by the plant's security force and a list of existing maintenance problems at the plant and the NRC's timeline for requiring corrective actions.

Entergy, the licensee for the Indian Point Energy Center, announced yesterday that both Entergy and the plant's security force have ratified a new five-year contract, thereby averting a strike. The contract becomes effective on October 2, 2004, when the current contract expires.

NRC staff will continue to monitor conditions at the plant. Over the past few weeks, security inspectors from our Region I office and staff members from our Nuclear Security and Incident Response Office in headquarters have conducted inspections to verify the adequacy of the training, qualifications, and proficiency of Entergy's replacement security force. In addition, in the event that a strike did take place, NRC's region-based inspectors were prepared to provide 24-hour inspection coverage at the plant to monitor the contingent security force in implementing the site Security Plan.

Nuclear security is a top priority for the NRC. I can assure you that the NRC is providing vigorous oversight to ensure that strong security is maintained at the Nation's nuclear facilities, including Indian Point. For your information, I have enclosed a recently issued brochure entitled, "Protecting Our Nation – Since 9-11-01," which describes actions taken by the NRC to protect our Nation's nuclear facilities.

We will provide you a list of existing maintenance problems at Indian Point that the NRC believes are noteworthy and the NRC's assessment of the licensee's planned corrective actions in a separate letter by October 8, 2004, as you requested.

If I can be of further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Nils J. Diaz

Enclosure: As stated