

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: 07/18/05 EDO CONTROL: G20050461  
DOC DT: 05/26/05  
FINAL REPLY:

Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton

TO:

Chairman

FOR SIGNATURE OF : \*\* PRI \*\*

CRC NO: 05-0298

Chairman

DESC:

ROUTING:

Security and Emergency Preparedness at Indian  
Point

Reyes  
Virgilio  
Kane  
Silber  
Dean  
Burns  
Collins, RI  
Dyer, NRR  
Cyr, OGC

DATE: 06/28/05

ASSIGNED TO:

CONTACT:

NSIR

Zimmerman

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

Senator Clinton no longer requests a meeting.  
Staff should prepare response regarding status of  
Petition and sirens.

Coordinate response with OGC, RI and NRR. Please  
Note: Letters prepare by OGC to Gunter and Lampert  
are before the Commission.

Template: SECY-017

ERide: SECY-01

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

Date Printed: Jun 28, 2005 10:33

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PAPER NUMBER: LTR-05-0298                      LOGGING DATE: 06/07/2005  
ACTION OFFICE: EDO

AUTHOR: Hilliary Clinton  
AFFILIATION: SEN  
ADDRESSEE: CHRM Nils Diaz  
SUBJECT: Request meeting with the Commission to discuss nuclear plant security

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

LETTER DATE: 05/26/2005

ACKNOWLEDGED No  
SPECIAL HANDLING: EDO....should coordinate response with OGC...Note CORR-05-0100, Gunter and CORR-05-0101, Lampert are before the Commission

NOTES: Senator Clinton no longer requests meeting; however, staff should prepare response regarding status of petition and sirens

FILE LOCATION: ADAMS

DATE DUE: 07/20/2005                      DATE SIGNED:

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EDO --G20050461

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3204

May 26, 2005

Nils J. Diaz, Ph.D.  
Chairman  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Dr. Diaz:

I write to request a meeting with you to discuss an important nuclear plant security issue.

As you know, I have taken a very active interest in security and emergency preparedness at Indian Point and other plants in New York. I was disturbed to learn recently that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) had rejected a public petition filed by local governments and citizen groups, including several groups from New York.

The petition asked the NRC to require all nuclear plants to equip emergency notification sirens with backup power sources independent from the electrical grid, so that in the event of an accident or an act of terrorism accompanied by a loss of power the public could still be promptly notified of a radiological emergency. My understanding is that of the 62 commercial reactor sites that use sirens as warning systems, 27% have backup power for all sirens, 33% percent for some of the sirens and 40% have no backup at all. Indian Point has no backup power for its sirens, and I understand that none of the other New York plants have backup power for their sirens either.

This decision defies common sense. In the event of a successful attack on a nuclear plant, it seems obvious that disruptions of the grid in surrounding areas are a possible if not likely outcome. What good are emergency sirens if they are not going to sound in the event of an attack?

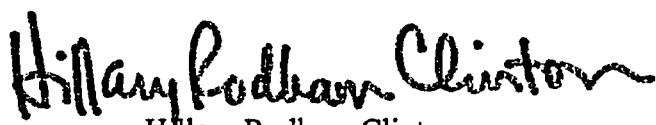
In your response to the petition, you include several justifications for your decision. One is that the petition was improperly filed. In addition, you suggest that this is perhaps a responsibility of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) or the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and not the NRC. In my view, none of these answers is satisfactory. The NRC issues the operating licenses for our commercial reactors, and it is the responsibility of the NRC to make certain that emergency response plans work at Indian Point and other nuclear power plants across the country.

I urge you to reconsider and change your decision. If we need to change the law to make this happen, then I will work with you and my colleagues to see that appropriate legislation is

CHAIRMAN REC'D  
05 JUN -2 AM 9:35

expeditiously introduced in the United States Senate. I look forward to meeting with you shortly to discuss this issue further.

Sincerely yours,

  
Hillary Rodham Clinton