

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: 07/31/07

EDO CONTROL: G20070501

DOC DT: 07/11/07

FINAL REPLY:

Lisa Rainwater  
Riverkeeper

TO:

Chairman Klein

FOR SIGNATURE OF :

\*\* GRN \*\*

CRC NO: 07-0466

Dyer, NRR

DESC:

Request Separate Meetings for Environmental  
Scoping and the License Renewal Process for All  
Communities Facing Relicensing

ROUTING:

Reyes  
Virgilio  
Kane  
Ash  
Ordaz  
Cyr/Burns  
Collins, RI  
Travers, RII  
Caldwell, RIII  
Mallett, RIV

DATE: 07/12/07

ASSIGNED TO:

CONTACT:

NRR

Dyer

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

Add EDO and the Commission on for concurrence.

**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET**

*Date Printed: Jul 12, 2007 10:23*

---

**PAPER NUMBER:** LTR-07-0466 **LOGGING DATE:** 07/11/2007  
**ACTION OFFICE:** EDO

**AUTHOR:** Lisa Rainwater  
**AFFILIATION:** NY  
**ADDRESSEE:** Dale Klein  
**SUBJECT:** Urges the Commission to grant communities facing a license renewal process the same rights granted to communities near Indian Point

**ACTION:** Direct Reply  
**DISTRIBUTION:** RF, SECY to Ack

**LETTER DATE:** 07/11/2007  
**ACKNOWLEDGED** No  
**SPECIAL HANDLING:** Made publicly available in ADAMS via EDO/DPC  
**NOTES:** Commission should review prior to dispatch  
**FILE LOCATION:** ADAMS

**DATE DUE:** 08/02/2007 **DATE SIGNED:**

EDO --G20070501



# RIVERKEEPER.

Chairman Dale Klein  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
1 White Flint North  
11555 Rockville Pike  
Rockville, MD 20852-2738

FAX: 301-415-1672

July 11, 2007

Dear Chairman Klein:

Riverkeeper and the below listed nongovernmental organizations formally request that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission grant every community facing a license renewal process for their local nuclear reactor the same rights recently granted to the community living near the Indian Point nuclear power plant located in Buchanan, New York.

*Specifically, we request that for all pending and future relicensing applications, the generic informational public meeting on the NRC relicensing process be separated from the environmental scoping meeting, so that those communities hosting nuclear power plants have the same opportunity for public participation as that recently provided for Indian Point and other nuclear reactors prior to the NRC decision in August 2006 that combined these two meetings into one.*

On May 2, 2007, Riverkeeper wrote a letter to the Commission formally requesting the reinstatement of its earlier policy requiring separate meetings for environmental scoping and the license renewal process. On May 29, Riverkeeper was informed that our request would be granted for the Indian Point license renewal process. Based on subsequent correspondence and face to face communications, however, it was made clear that this change in policy would only apply to Indian Point.

On June 13, 2007, Riverkeeper reiterated our request that separate meetings be held for all communities facing a relicensing process during an NRC – Riverkeeper meeting in Tarrytown, New York. At that meeting, P.T. Kuo, Director of the Division of License Renewal, indicated that the NRC was not prepared to reinstate its previous policy but that should a community request separate meetings, the NRC would consider its request. Riverkeeper then asked if the NRC would issue a press release informing communities of the need to request separate meetings. Rani Franovich, Chief of the Environmental Branch B, replied in the negative. In addition, Riverkeeper received a letter on June 26, 2007, from J. E. Dyer, Director of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, stating that “the NRC staff has decided that for the Indian Point license renewal application, it will

hold a separate information meeting near the plant to discuss the license renewal process."

These responses are completely unacceptable. At a time when the NRC is attempting to improve its public image and increase public confidence in its ability to oversee the nuclear industry, limiting public participation in a crucial process such as the relicensing of a nuclear power plant does little to increase public faith in the agency charged with protecting public health and safety regarding the operation of nuclear facilities.

We live in a society based on democratic principles. The public must have the opportunity to participate fully in the democratic process, particularly when it comes to obtaining information on government agency actions that affect their lives. When it comes to "saving resources," cutting back on public participation should be the last place NRC looks to save money, not the first. Every community deserves equal treatment from a federal agency, and the NRC's current willy-nilly approach to public relicensing meetings is a flawed policy that disenfranchises the public-at-large in the most egregious fashion.

Therefore, we urge the NRC to reinstate its prior policy regarding public participation in relicensing reviews effective immediately.

We look forward to a prompt response from your office to our request.

Sincerely,



Lisa Rainwater, PhD, Policy Director  
Riverkeeper  
828 South Broadway  
Tarrytown, NY 10591

Rochelle Becker, Executive Director  
The Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility  
PO 1328  
San Luis Obispo, Ca 93406

Jon Block, Project Manager  
Nuclear Energy and Climate Change  
Union of Concerned Scientists  
1707 H St NW, Suite 600  
Washington, DC 20006-3962

Michele Boyd, Legislative Director  
Energy Program  
Public Citizen  
215 Pennsylvania Ave. SE  
Washington, DC. 20003

Eric Epstein  
Three Mile Island Alert, Inc.,  
315 Peffer Street, Harrisburg, Pa 17102

Mary Lampert  
Pilgrim Watch  
148 Washington Street  
Duxbury, MA 02332

David Lochbaum, Director  
Nuclear Safety Project  
Union of Concerned Scientists  
1707 H. St NW, Suite 600  
Washington, DC 20006-3962

Jim Warren, Executive Director  
North Carolina Waste Awareness & Reduction Network  
PO Box 61051,  
Durham, NC 27715-1051

CC: Annette Vietti-Cook, Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Jim Dyer, Office Director, Nuclear Reactor Regulation  
P.T. Kuo, Director, Division of License Renewal  
Rani Franovich, Chief, Environmental Branch B  
Bo Pham, Project Manager of Indian Point Relicensing

*U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety*

Senator Thomas R. Carper (Chairman)  
Senator Lamar Alexander  
Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton  
Senator Johnny Isakson  
Senator Joseph I. Lieberman  
Senator Bernard Sanders  
Senator George V. Voinovich