

FOIA Resource

From: nobody@www.nrc.gov
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Subject: WWW Form Submission

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by
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FOIAPA REQUEST
Case No.: 2011-0263
Date Rec'd: 6-20-11
Specialist: Christen
Related Case: _____

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Desc: Riverkeeper requests copies of any and all documentation, including but not limited to any reports, correspondence, written communications, analyses, inspections, plans, projections, guidelines, manuals, justifications, engineering records, data, etc, related to any and all exemptions from NRC regulations that have ever been granted in relation to the operation of the Indian Point nuclear power plant.

FeeCategory: Educational

MediaType:

FeeCategory_Description:

Expedite_ImminentThreatText:

Expedite_UrgencyToInformText:

Waiver_Purpose: Riverkeeper is a nonprofit environmental organization whose mission is to safeguard the ecological and biological integrity of the Hudson River. Since Indian Point is situated on the banks of the Hudson River in Buchanan, NY, the safe operation of the plant is of paramount importance to our members and the public living in the Hudson Valley. The Fukushima nuclear power plant disaster in Japan has raised a host of concerns related to the ability of Indian Point to operate safely under all credible worst-case emergency situations. It is apparent that the Indian Point plant operates pursuant to various exemptions from NRC regulations, and Riverkeeper is concerned about the implications of such exemptions for the safe operation of the plant during various emergency situations. Riverkeeper will use the information obtained through this FOIA request to educate and inform ourselves, our members, and the public about various aspects of Indian Point's operation and the plant's ability to handle varying emergency situations. Moreover, Riverkeeper is

currently a critical stakeholder in various NRC matters (including the Indian Point license renewal proceeding, NRC's review of the lessons learned from Fukushima, NRC's emergency preparedness update rulemaking, NRC's groundwater task force, and others); Riverkeeper will use the detailed information available through the FOIA process to inform our position and any input and feedback Riverkeeper provides in such matters and proceedings.

Waiver_ExtentToExtractAnalyze: Riverkeeper will review the documents provided, extract relevant information about the ability of Indian Point to operate safely and handle varying emergency situations in light of various exemptions from NRC regulations, in order to better inform ourselves, our members, and the public. Riverkeeper will analyze the contents of the records to aid us in understanding how various critical systems and components of Indian Point are able to operate safely in light of regulatory exemptions. The information will help us in formulating organizational policy regarding the continued safe operation of Indian Point. We will also use the information gathered to inform relevant issues in the various NRC matters Riverkeeper is a critical stakeholder in.

Waiver_SpecificActivityQuals: The records will be used to educate our staff, members, and the public about the ability of Indian Point to operate safely and handle varying emergency situations in light of various exemptions from NRC regulations, and to inform Riverkeeper's position, input, and feedback in the various NRC matters and proceedings Riverkeeper is involved in. Since its inception in 1966, Riverkeeper has used litigation, science, advocacy, and public education to raise and address concerns relating to Indian Point. Riverkeeper has a team of attorneys who have a legal education, experience working with federal regulations and administrative law, and close working relationships with technical experts in the field of nuclear engineering with whom they consult regarding the content of technical documents. Riverkeeper is, thus, uniquely situated to review, analyze, and utilize the information obtained from this FOIA request and contribute to the public's understanding of critical safety matters: Riverkeeper's over 40 years of experience working on Indian Point issues, legal and substantive expertise on nuclear related issues, and access to technical experts will allow Riverkeeper to keep the public fully informed.

Waiver_ImpactPublicUnderstanding: The impact will be to increase the public's understanding about the ability of Indian Point to operate safely and handle varying emergency situations in light of exemptions from various NRC regulations. As a nonprofit organization that regularly communicates with the public on environmental and safety issues related to Indian Point, Riverkeeper is uniquely situated accomplish this goal. Our aim here is to increase public understanding of the operation of Indian Point, especially any systems at the plant that have the potential to pose threats to public safety in the event of an emergency due to exemptions from otherwise applicable regulations. The safe operation of the plant is of great interest to the public in our region, and our efforts to increase the amount of information publicly available are in direct response to this need.

Riverkeeper has already played an important role in keeping the public aware of various safety issues at Indian Point in light of the Fukushima nuclear power plant nuclear disaster. For example, Riverkeeper was instrumental in bringing about a large turnout to the Indian Point annual safety assessment meeting held on June 2, 2011 in Cortlandt Manor, NY in order for the public to get answers from the NRC relating to critical safety questions (see <http://www.riverkeeper.org/news-events/news/stop-polluters/power-plant-cases/hundreds-gather-to-tell-nrc-indian-point-is-not-worth-the-risk/>); Riverkeeper's website regularly posts information and analyses of NRC actions and reports relating to Fukushima (for example, see <http://www.riverkeeper.org/news-events/news/stop-polluters/power-plant-cases/nrc-reports-highlight-safety-failures-at-indian-point/>; <http://www.riverkeeper.org/news-events/news/stop-polluters/power-plant-cases/message-to-engel-lowey-on-indian-point/>); and Riverkeeper has been a critical voice in media, and continues to regularly provide the public's perspective on issues stemming from the Fukushima disaster (see <http://www.riverkeeper.org/news-events/news+rvk-in-the-press/page/7/>). Upon Riverkeeper's receipt, review, and analysis of documents obtained through this FOIA request, Riverkeeper will continue to use such channels to increase the public's level of understanding of safety issues stemming from applicable regulatory exemptions at Indian Point.

Waiver_NatureOfPublic: Riverkeeper has thousands of members as well as thousands of Facebook fans and Twitter followers who are interested and concerned about the issues surrounding the safe operation of Indian Point. Moreover, the safe operation of the plant potentially affects nearly half a million residents in the plant's vicinity, and nearly twenty million within a fifty mile radius of Indian Point. Via information posted on Riverkeeper's website, electronic news letters, Facebook and Twitter posts, media interviews, meetings etc, Riverkeeper reaches out to this audience on a daily basis, contributing to their understanding of the relevant issues.

Waiver_MeansOfDissemination: After analyzing the records, Riverkeeper disseminates it to the public through postings on our website, www.riverkeeper.org, press releases and press conferences, news articles, op-ed pieces, television news interviews, Facebook and Twitter posts, electronic newsletters, phone-banking, as well as at Riverkeeper member meetings and presentations, and public meetings (including NRC meetings). Additionally, as a stakeholder in various NRC matters, any information that is relevant to any matters or proceedings that Riverkeeper is involved in and which Riverkeeper will use to inform our position, feedback, and input in any such matters and proceedings, will be disseminated to the public through the aforementioned methods as well.

Waiver_FreeToPublicOrFee: Free of charge.

Waiver_PrivateCommericalInterest: None.
