

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: 04/05/12

EDO CONTROL: G20120186

DOC DT: 03/13/12

FINAL REPLY:

Representative Nita M. Lowey

TO:

Chairman Jaczko

FOR SIGNATURE OF :

** PRI **

CRC NO: 12-0100

Chairman

DESC:

ROUTING:

Concerns about Evacuation Plans for Impacts of a
Fukushima-Level Accident at Indian Point
(EDATS: SECY-2012-0127)

Borchardt
Weber
Virgilio
Ash
Mamish
OGC/GC
Leeds, NRR
Wiggins, NSIR
Burns, OGC
Schmidt, OCA

DATE: 03/20/12

ASSIGNED TO:

CONTACT:

EDO

Rihm

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

Please prepare response in accordance with OEDO
Notice 2009-0441-02 (ML093290179). NSIR and
NRR/Japan Lessons Learned Directorate to provide
input to Roger Rihm, OEDO, if required. Roger Rihm
will coordinate with OGC and OCA.

EDATS

Electronic Document and Action Tracking System

EDATS Number: SECY-2012-0127

Source: SECY

General Information

Assigned To: OEDO

OEDO Due Date: 4/5/2012 11:00 PM

Other Assignees:

SECY Due Date: 4/9/2012 11:00 PM

Subject: Concerns about Evacuation Plans for Impacts of a Fukushima-Level Accident at Indian Point

Description:

CC Routing: NONE

ADAMS Accession Numbers - Incoming: NONE

Response/Package: NONE

Other Information

Cross Reference Number: G20120186, LTR-12-0100

Staff Initiated: NO

Related Task:

Recurring Item: NO

File Routing: EDATS

Agency Lesson Learned: NO

OEDO Monthly Report Item: NO

Process Information

Action Type: Letter

Priority: Medium

Sensitivity: None

Signature Level: Chairman Jaczko

Urgency: NO

Approval Level: No Approval Required

OEDO Concurrence: YES

OCM Concurrence: NO

OCA Concurrence: NO

Special Instructions: Please prepare response in accordance with OEDO Notice 2009-0441-02 (ML093290179). NSIR to provide input to Roger Rihm, OEDO, if required. Roger Rihm will coordinate response with OGC and OCA.

Document Information

Originator Name: Representative Nita M. Lowey

Date of Incoming: 3/13/2012

Originating Organization: Congress

Document Received by SECY Date: 3/20/2012

Addressee: Chairman Jaczko

Date Response Requested by Originator: NONE

Incoming Task Received: Letter

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

Date Printed: Mar 19, 2012 16:58

PAPER NUMBER: LTR-12-0100 **LOGGING DATE:** 03/13/2012
ACTION OFFICE: EDO

AUTHOR: REP Nita Lowey
AFFILIATION: CONG
ADDRESSEE: Gregory Jaczko
SUBJECT: Concerns evacuation plans for impacts of a Fukushima-level accident--Indian Point

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

LETTER DATE: 03/13/2012
ACKNOWLEDGED No
SPECIAL HANDLING: Commission Correspondence

NOTES:
FILE LOCATION: ADAMS

DATE DUE: 04/09/2012 **DATE SIGNED:**

EDO --G20120186

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES:

RANKING MEMBER,
STATE, FOREIGN OPERATIONS, AND
RELATED PROGRAMS

LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
AND EDUCATION

HOMELAND SECURITY



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March 13, 2012

Chairman Gregory B. Jaczko
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mail Stop O-16G4
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Dear Chairman Jaczko:

On March 9, 2012, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) announced that it will begin implementing several enhanced safety recommendations of the Japan Near-Term Task Force. While I strongly support the NRC's actions to better secure, monitor, and equip nuclear sites to deal with Fukushima-level meltdowns and gather additional data to shape future risk mitigation efforts, I am very disappointed that the NRC's actions do not address the alarming deficiencies in evacuation plans for surrounding communities.

As you know, under rules in force for more than 30 years, surrounding communities, within 10 miles of a plant, must prepare federally reviewed evacuation plans. For citizens living within a 50-mile radius, there is no requirement for communities to create evacuation plans. In the event of a nuclear accident, the NRC operates under the policy that citizens outside the 10 mile radius will stay put until otherwise directed. This policy contradicts the likely scenario that would play out in the event of a Fukushima-level incident. On March 17, 2011, Bill Borchardt, NRC executive director for operations, stated that if a meltdown on a similar scale as Fukushima happened in the United States, the evacuation zone would extend to 50 miles.

The Indian Point Energy Center is built on two fault lines and is located 25 miles outside of New York City's northern border. A 50-mile evacuation order for Indian Point would include over 17 million people in parts of New Jersey, Connecticut and New York City. Given the geography and transportation infrastructure of the region, a timely evacuation would be nearly impossible and requires further review by the many federal, state, and local entities that would be involved in such a massive undertaking.

A year after the Fukushima nuclear meltdown, the Near-Term Task Force presents an opportunity to update our best practices to reflect lessons learned from the disaster. I encourage the NRC to require evacuation plans that extend to 50 miles so that we can have an accurate assessment of the public safety impacts that a Fukushima-level accident would have on our citizenry.

Sincerely,



Nita M. Lowey
Member of Congress