

RAS E-614

Docket, Hearing

From: Susan Kassouf [kassouf@bestweb.net]
Sent: Sunday, June 17, 2012 1:44 PM
To: Docket, Hearing, Siarnacki, Anne
Subject: Re: Indian Point

To whom it may concern:

I am writing about the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's efforts regarding the Indian Point nuclear power plant in Westchester County. I have long been concerned about the safety of the plant, but recent events in Japan as well as new evidence about seismic activity lead me to think it should be shut down as soon as possible.

My concerns are as follows:

-A recent Columbia University study by leading earthquake experts indicates that earthquakes with a magnitude of 7 on the Richter scale are possible at Indian Point. I have seen neither a direct nor adequate response to this study on behalf of the NRC. To the best of my knowledge, the plant's owner, Entergy, has offered no evidence that the plant can withstand earthquakes of this magnitude. Moreover, I would like to understand why the NRC did not appear to take this study into account in the relicensing considerations of Indian Point.

-The evacuation plans, in the event of an emergency, are inadequate, to say the least. As a Peekskill resident, I can vouch for the fact that a concert on the Hudson River waterfront has the capacity to snarl traffic considerably; it is beyond my imagination to think that such a densely populated area could be evacuated smoothly, if at all. Former FEMA Director James Lee Witt concluded as much in the 2003 report on the evacuation plan that he prepared for former Governor George Pataki. Moreover, our instructions in the event of an evacuation are to head south, toward a more densely populated area. It seems likely that most people will be fleeing away from New York City, not toward it, which further lessens my already shaky confidence in the evacuation plan.

-Finally, the evidence does not support claims that shutting down Indian Point would effectively shut down large parts of the state due to a loss of power. At periods of peak demand, for example in the heat of summer, Indian Point supplies about 2000 MW of power to the region, when the region itself is consuming 16,000 to 17,000 MW. Better efficiencies in the grid, conservation and a turn to renewable energies could easily supplant this 12% of power that Indian Point supplies. Indeed, my husband and I installed solar panels on our townhouse roof four years ago, and have not paid an electricity bill since.

For the safety of the citizens of New York State and beyond, as well as for the safety of the planet, I would urge you to take action to halt the relicensing of Indian Point. I would welcome hearing from you a

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response to my concerns, as well as to seeing the NRC take its charge to regulate an aging power plant on a seismic fault in a densely populated area more seriously

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Susan Kassouf