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December 15, 1982

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The Honorable Nunzio Palladino
Chairman
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20515

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Dear Mr. Chairman:

This pertains to the current adequacy of offsite emergency planning and preparedness around the Indian Point nuclear power plant in New York.

As you know, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) informed NRC on August 2, 1982 that "significant deficiencies" existed in the State Radiological Emergency Preparedness Plan for Indian Point. While efforts have been made to correct these deficiencies, I understand that FEMA will be unable to assess the surrounding counties' actual preparedness to react to a large nuclear accident until after an emergency exercise is conducted sometime in the Spring of 1983.

I am aware also that the Westchester County Executive informed the Commission on December 5th that his county's government cannot give the public "reasonable assurance" that adequate protective actions "can and will be taken" in the event of a major radiological emergency at Indian Point, and that:

If a radiological disaster were to occur today, Westchester County remains unprepared both in terms of equipment and sufficiently trained personnel ...

In addition, Rockland County (another jurisdiction within the plant's emergency planning zone) has officially withdrawn from participation in the Radiological Emergency Response Plan currently under review by FEMA.

In light of these circumstances, please provide me with a statement of the Commission's basis for any determination that there is

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"reasonable assurance" that adequate protective measures now can be taken to protect public health and safety in the event of a large nuclear accident at Indian Point.

I appreciate your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

M. Udall
MORRIS K. UDALL
Chairman