



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

October 27, 2021

The Honorable Sandy Galef
New York Assembly
95th Assembly District
641 Legislative Office Building
Albany, NY 12248

Dear Ms. Galef:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to your September 28, 2021 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System Accession No. ML21273A257), letter regarding NRC inspector coverage at the Indian Point Nuclear Generating (Indian Point) facility.

During the decommissioning phase, on-site inspection of Indian Point is provided by a variety of qualified expert inspectors. These experts have the range of technical expertise needed to oversee activities specific to decommissioning, including spent fuel handling and storage. Inspectors visit sites to observe the work being performed by licensees and their contractors. Specifically, when the licensee conducts certain specialized decommissioning activities, these inspectors observe some of those activities by visiting the site, performing “walkdowns” (visual inspections), interviewing site personnel, and reviewing procedures and records. This includes the pipeline safety concerns and a continued evaluation of the site’s decommissioning activities near the vicinity of the pipeline.

Your letter requests that the NRC add a full-time resident inspector at Indian Point. After careful consideration, the NRC staff has determined that maintaining full-time resident inspectors at Indian Point during decommissioning is not necessary to provide for the protection of the public health and safety, nor is a resident inspector necessarily the best method for effective regulatory oversight at the site. This is because decommissioning activities present significantly fewer radiological and nuclear safety hazards than activities at an operating power reactor site. A subset of decommissioning activities, spent fuel handling and storage-related activities, represent a higher risk that warrants more frequent NRC inspection, though such activities are usually limited in duration. Oversight activities at decommissioning sites therefore lend themselves to continuing to utilize visiting inspectors with different areas of specialized expertise, as appropriate, to observe various ongoing licensee decommissioning activities.

Ms. Galef

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If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff contact Mr. Bruce Watson, Chief, Reactor Decommissioning Branch, Division of Decommissioning, Uranium Recovery, and Waste Programs, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, at (301) 415-6221.

Sincerely,



Signed by Lubinski, John
on 10/27/21

John W. Lubinski, Director
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

cc: P. Harckham, New York Senate



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

October 27, 2021

The Honorable Pete Harckham
New York Senate
40th Senate District
812 Legislative Office Building
Albany, NY 12247

Dear Mr. Harckham:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to your September 28, 2021 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System Accession No. ML21273A257), letter regarding NRC inspector coverage at the Indian Point Nuclear Generating (Indian Point) facility.

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Mr. Harckham

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Sincerely,



Signed by Lubinski, John
on 10/27/21

John W. Lubinski, Director
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

cc: S. Galef, New York Assembly

SUBJECT: LTR-21-0265-1 - RESPONSE TO ASSEMBLYWOMAN NY STATE LEGISLATURE SANDY GALEF AND SENATOR PETER HARCKHAM REGARDING ON-SITE PERMAENT INSPECTOR AT INDIAN POINT NUCLEAR GENERATING FACILITY. Date: October 27, 2021.

DISTRIBUTION: LTR-21-0265-1

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ADAMS Accession No.: (Pkg.) ML21273A258

Concurrence Case: 20211008-10009

*concur via e-Concurrence

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