

Assemblywoman Sandy Galef
641 Legislative Office Building
Albany, New York 12248
95th Assembly District



Senator Pete Harckham
812 Legislative Office Building
Albany, New York 12247
40th Senate District

NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE

The Honorable Christopher T. Hanson,
Chairman,
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mail Stop O-16 B33
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Dec. 7, 2021

Dear Chairman Hanson:

Re: New regulations regarding nuclear power plants during decommissioning

As the State Legislators representing the communities where the Indian Point Energy Center (IPEC) is located, we are deeply disappointed that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) plans to weaken safety regulations at nuclear power plants currently undergoing decommissioning.

We strongly disagree with the NRC's view that nuclear plants in decommissioning pose a lessened danger than operating plants. In the case of Indian Point, nuclear spent fuel will be managed during the decade-long decommissioning process and stored on-site for the foreseeable future. That calls for continued vigilance.

While IPEC is no longer in operation, the nuclear materials stored there continue to pose a significant danger for all the same reasons as when the plant was operational, with the additional complications and hazards of the heavy demolition work occurring on site.

Among the top concerns of our community is that the heavy decommissioning work will be conducted while multiple high pressure gas pipelines continue to operate on the site. The NRC must assess the catastrophic consequences of a gas line rupture and explosion and devise the necessary precautions to prevent any such horrific incidents.

This calls for strong emergency preparedness regulations, not watered-downed ones. Preparedness starts with on-site inspectors with written goals, periodic reports, public transparency, and accountability. There must be continued monitoring on-site by qualified professionals using state-of-the-art technology during the entire decommissioning processes.

We want to prevent an emergency from becoming a catastrophe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Sandy Galef". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Sandy Galef
95th Assembly District

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Pete B. Harckham". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized, with a large "P" and "B".

Pete Harckham
40th Senate District