

Docket, Hearing

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Subject: PLEASE DENY LICENSE EXTENSION TO INDIAN POINT

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September 14, 2012

DOCKETED
 USNRC

Office of the Secretary, Rulemakings and Adjudications
 Staff, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission,
 Washington, DC 20555-0001
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September 14, 2012 (3:20 p.m.)

OFFICE OF SECRETARY
 RULEMAKINGS AND
 ADJUDICATIONS STAFF

I am writing to urge, in the strongest possible way, the **denial** of a relicense to the Indian Point nuclear reactors in Buchanan, NY.

There are three simple reasons which make denial an imperative. Each stand on their own.

ONE: Indian Point is an aging nuclear facility which has been marred with an astonishing number of operational problems. Many of these patently relate to aging (i.e., corrosion, embrittlement and deterioration). To give a nuclear plant which has already demonstrated age-related safety problems in its first 40 years of operation a license to continue operation for 20 more years is irrational and dangerous.

TWO: The security risk is untenable. There is no question following Sept 11, that Indian Point is a prime terrorist target. There may be none in the U.S. that is more attractive. And, as the NRC well knows, Indian Point has had innumerable security problems. Further, even the most hardened and robust facility is vulnerable to cyberattack. The public record is quite clear that neither the government nor the private sector has current capability to protect either reactors or the grid upon which they depend against such an assault.

THREE: Indian Point is located in the most densely populated region of any reactor in the nation (or in the world, for that matter). Some 20 million people - a considerable portion of the U.S. population - live within the 50 mile ingestion zone. Approximately a million live within 20 miles. Over 300,000 live within 10 miles. The region is regularly subject to gridlock, even on a good day. The suggestion that any sizable number of people can be rapidly and effectively evacuated during a major emergency event defies rational belief. The idea that even a small segment of the regional population could be evacuated or protected during a major storm or other natural disaster scenario - when road blockages, public transit inoperability, and electrical power outages are widespread, and communications and mobility are degraded - is also preposterous. Even more absurd is the assertion that effective emergency response action under such conditions can be relied upon to mitigate an accident.

Have Fukushima, 9/11, Katrina, the BP disaster taught the NRC nothing? Are the Commissioners so cowed by the industry that they are willing to gamble with the health and lives of millions of Americans? Is the NRC willing to risk the possibility of the New York Metropolitan region becoming uninhabitable for decades, or even centuries?

These are questions many citizens who live in the shadow of the Indian Point reactors ask. Please show us that you have integrity. Please show us there is some reason to trust your agency. Please show us that there are some risks you are not willing to take.

Please.

Sincerely,

Michel Lee, Esq.
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cc:
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