



SANDRA R. GALEF
Assemblywoman 95th District

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July 15, 2022

Chairman Christopher Hanson
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Dear Chairman Hanson,

I am writing to urge you to reverse course and end the roll back of regulations relating to the operating of decommissioning facilities, such as at Indian Point in Buchanan, NY. These endeavors are flawed both tactfully and substantively. The NRC must reverse course and assert greater oversight of decommissioning facilities and not rubberstamp exemptions.

As the representative of one such decommissioning facility, Indian Point, I can tell you that the community generally views the NRC unfavorably, with great distrust. The NRC's plans to allow for the dumping of nuclear waste into the Hudson River, the easing of tracking requirements as nuclear waste is transported across the country, and to reduce the oversight of decommissioning facilities all fly in the face of the NRC's mission of maintaining public safety. These rollbacks not only insulate plant owners from accountability, but it serves to obfuscate. These proposals say loudly and unambiguously that the NRC is not interested in overseeing the safety of the decommissioning facilities. The NRC claims a broad preemption over safety yet shrinks from true oversight.

Indian Point is in a very densely populated area and close to New York City. One would imagine that the safety of this plant, with the consequences of disaster incalculable, would be a priority for the NRC. The NRC should continue to grant individual exemptions for individual facilities since each situation is so unique. Too broad of an approach risks missing nuances key to understanding specific facilities, such as Indian Point.

The NRC must take seriously the concern of residents who see only reduced oversight and accountability. The NRC seems unwilling to engage. We understand that there are new efficiencies and that the inherited wisdom of the past is not always the best guide for the future, but the NRC needs to make these changes in a way that suggests active and continued attention is being given to safety at Indian Point. Instead, it appears that the NRC prefers to let the industry regulate itself at our peril. This is unacceptable.

If the NRC oversaw the safety of nuclear facilities, operating and decommissioning alike, with the same zeal that it sought to limit its own ability to act on behalf of the people, it would be to our enduring benefit.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sandy Galef', written over a horizontal line.

Sandy Galef

CC:

Thomas Congdon, Chair Indian Point DOB

U.S. Congressman Mondaire Jones

U.S. Senator Charles Schumer

U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand

New York State Senator Peter Harckham

Cortlandt Manor Town Supervisor Richard Becker

Village of Buchanan Mayor Theresa Knickerbocker

Hendrick Hudson School District Superintendent of Schools Joseph Hochreiter

Westchester County Executive George Latimer

Westchester County Legislator Catherine Borgia

Westchester County Legislator Colin Smith