

## Rothman Calls For Temporary Shutdown Of Indian Point

January 30, 2003

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Cites Need To Develop Workable Evacuation Plan For  
Nuclear Plant That Would Protect All People

Washington, DC - After carefully reviewing a New York State-commissioned study which concluded that the current evacuation plan for the Indian Point Energy Center would not protect the public, Congressman Steve Rothman (D-NJ9) called on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to temporarily shut down the nuclear power plant. Rothman called for the shutdown until a new emergency strategy is developed that would protect all people within a 50 mile radius of the facility, including those in Northern New Jersey.

"It has become quite clear to me that Indian Point's current evacuation plan is inadequate and that until a comprehensive and workable proposal is implemented, the nuclear plant must be shut down for the safety of the general public," Rothman said. "The current evacuation strategy focuses only on people living within 10 miles of the plant, despite the fact that nuclear experts say that people within 50 miles of the plant would also be in danger. Additionally, it offers no plan for people who live within a 50-mile radius of the facility, including residents of Bergen, Hudson, and Passaic Counties, who would be in harms ways if there was an accident or terrorist attack at Indian Point."

Former Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Director James Lee Witt, who was commissioned by New York Governor George Pataki to conduct an independent study on emergency planning for Indian Point, gave his final report on January 10. The report declared that the current evacuation plan fails "to protect the people from an acceptable dose of radiation." Specifically, Witt noted that the current evacuation plan, which would require 8-10 hours to complete, is designed for plant leaks only, and does not account for the possibility of a sudden terrorist attack. The study concluded that the federal evacuation plans were based on outdated regulations rather than updated strategies to protect the public from radiation exposure.

"After September 11 it became apparent that changes to the security and planning procedures at Indian Point and other high-risk operations needed to be made. We cannot live by the regulations of the past as we deal with the threats of the future," Rothman said. "FEMA and the NRC must quickly develop a new and effective evacuation strategy for Indian Point so that the roughly 20 million people who live within 50 miles of the facility are protected. No other nuclear power plant in the nation is located in so densely populated an area in the country, which is why addressing the inadequacies of Indian Point's emergency plan must be an immediate, national priority."

Indian Point is located just 15 miles northeast of Bergen County in Buchanan, New York. The plant does not generate any energy for New Jersey and produces approximately 6 percent of New York State's energy.

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