



The Indian Point Independent Safety Evaluation Panel: What It Is and How It Works

What is the ISE Panel?

The Indian Point Independent Safety Evaluation (ISE) Panel is a body of 12 experts in nuclear safety, security, emergency preparedness and public policy. At the request of Entergy Corporation, the owner of the Indian Point Energy Center (IPEC), the Panel conducted a comprehensive, independent evaluation of the Indian Point nuclear power station in Buchanan, New York.

Why was the Panel formed?

Indian Point has been the subject of continuing controversy for decades. Contributing to the unease of many in the public, and making it a visible focal point for anti-nuclear activists, Indian Point has experienced over the years numerous operational upsets, equipment failures and other very visible problems. Leaks from plant systems raise concern about environmental contamination, fines from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) raise questions about plant safety, and the evident difficulty of demonstrating the effectiveness of emergency plans causes many to wonder whether their safety could be protected if there were a major problem at the station.

The terrorist attack on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001, elevated to an entirely new level the fundamental issue of acceptability of a nuclear power plant so close to New York City. While these fears have diminished somewhat, public acceptance of Indian Point among many is tenuous at best. Entergy convened the ISE Panel to provide a thorough expert evaluation of IPEC, completely separate from those conducted regularly by the NRC, the Institute for Nuclear Power Operations and Entergy itself.

How were Panel members selected?

Entergy Corporation selected the two co-chairs: Dr. James T. Rhodes, a leading nuclear utility executive with 40 years of experience in the energy industry and Dr. Neil E. Todreas, a faculty member for nearly 40-years and former head of the nuclear engineering department at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, one of the world's leading scientific and technology institutions. Both co-chairs are retired and neither has had any ties to Entergy or Indian Point.

The co-chairs selected the remaining 10 members of the Panel, focusing on individual independence, integrity and expertise. In composite, the Panel brings more than 400 years of experience in virtually every facet of nuclear plant safety, security, emergency



preparedness and energy policy, from a variety of vantage points, and with full independence.

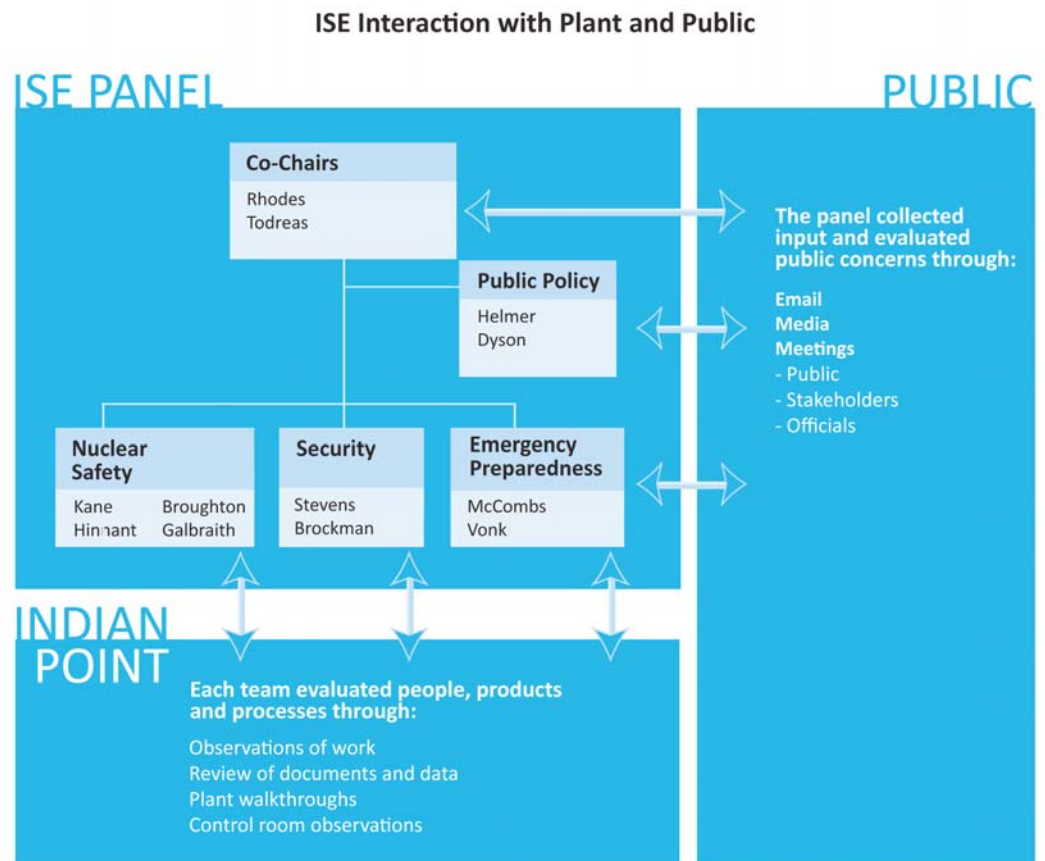
How did the Panel operate?

The Panel operated openly and transparently, as required in its charter approved by the co-chairs. They evaluated Indian Point performance in comparison with their own experience and expectations for high-performing nuclear plants both in the United States and internationally.

Three ISE teams conducted pre-planned, structured evaluations of the station, including observation of work in progress, attendance at meetings, interviews with individuals, discussion sessions with groups of employees and reviews of plant records, work products and other

documents and calculations. At the same time, members of the public policy and emergency preparedness teams interviewed municipal, county and state officials on issues of public interest.

The Panel also hosted two public meetings and established an email address to provide the public with opportunities to express matters of importance to them. The meetings were attended by approximately 150 individuals, many of whom provided written and/or oral presentations. More than 70 public contacts were received at the e-mail address, prompting consideration by the Panel.





Who paid for the evaluation?

Entergy paid the fees and expenses of the Panel, as appropriate for professional services. However, the Panel operated independently. Entergy played no role in the evaluation of the station or the preparation and review of the report prior to its publication.

What did the Panel find?

The Panel concluded that the IPEC is a safe plant and that Entergy is attentive to nuclear safety. Operations there are conducted competently and professionally, meeting the high standards of the U.S. nuclear industry. Plant safety systems are well maintained and reliable. Its performance compares favorably to high performing plants in most aspects of nuclear safety.

However, the Panel found that IPEC's relationship with the public and stakeholders, particularly on matters of emergency preparedness, is not healthy. Additionally, the Panel concluded that IPEC's emergency response facilities and equipment do not meet high industry standards, and should be upgraded.

Overall, the Panel found that security at the plant is strong but problems with staffing shortages in some security functions and certain aging security systems and equipment should be addressed on a priority basis.

Why should I trust the Panel's findings?

The ISE Panel represents an extraordinary pooling of nuclear and public policy experience, expertise and integrity. All of its members signed affidavits documenting they are free of any relationship or other circumstance, present or past, which could reasonably be expected to influence their judgment on IPEC matters reviewed. The Panel operated with complete independence and had full access to the plant and its employees. Its written report, prepared independently from Entergy, is being made available to the public without editing by any party.

Indian Point Independent Safety Evaluation Panel – Key Dates

March 19, 2008
Formation of Panel announced via media teleconference

March 26, 2008
Additional members added to Panel (Scotty Hinnant and Gary Broughton), finalizing membership

April 28, 2008
Public meetings held to solicit input from key local authorities, policy groups and the public

May-June, 2008
Evaluation activities conducted at Indian Point Energy Center (IPEC), including Panel training, interviews with key Entergy personnel, observation of drills and daily procedures, and interviews with public officials

July 30, 2008
Meetings with Entergy/IPEC management and Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff at plant site

July 31, 2008
Final report presented to media, public (via public meeting); report distributed to key authorities; Panel Web site live to host downloads by the public