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Indian Point Independent Safety Evaluation Panel Reports Indian Point a Safe, Secure Plant with Room for Improvement

BUCHANAN, N.Y. – July 31, 2008 – Today, the Indian Point Independent Safety Evaluation Panel, co-chaired by Dr. James Rhodes and Dr. Neil Todreas, announced its conclusions that the Indian Point Energy Center is safe and secure but has areas that need improvement. These findings are based on an extensive review of the plant, its operations and its safety, security and emergency preparedness.

The Panel identified two overarching conclusions about the plant:

- First, Indian Point is a safe plant. It meets U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission requirements, and plant safety systems are well maintained and reliable. Its performance compares favorably to high-performing plants in most aspects of nuclear safety.
- Second, Indian Point's relationship with the public and officials, in particular on matters regarding emergency preparedness, is not healthy. Public protection is a cooperative effort by plant management and local leaders. Relationships among these parties are strained and must be rebuilt.

“In reaching these conclusions, we took into account a range of qualitative and quantitative factors in addition to our professional experience and expert judgments related to high-performing nuclear energy plants,” Panel co-chair Dr. James Rhodes explained. Dr. Rhodes is the retired chief executive officer of Virginia Electric and Power Company and the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations.

Dr. Neil Todreas, co-chair of the panel and retired Head of the Nuclear Engineering Department at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology added, “These conclusions factor in 39 issues of public interest that were identified through our public meetings, public email address and phone number as well as meetings with state and local officials. It was our responsibility to find answers to these issues.”

The report, which was released today, also identified six principal recommendations for the plant's owner and operator, Entergy Corporation:

- Commit to continuing financial investment necessary to achieve and maintain top levels of safety, security and emergency preparedness at Indian Point.



- Engage in aggressive and proactive communication and outreach for a strong, lasting, mutually respectful and trusting relationship between the company and the community.
- Expeditiously embark on a comprehensive upgrade of Emergency Response Facilities and equipment.
- Follow through with Entergy's plan of action to address immediate and longer-term critical staffing shortages at Indian Point.
- Upgrade security equipment in order to improve reliability, maintainability and effectiveness of these systems.
- Repair, clean, paint and preserve station structures and equipment in order to visibly convey to workers and the public that Entergy is committed to the care and protection of the station.

The Panel made these recommendations based on its observations during a review period that began in March. The Panel includes 12 respected professionals in nuclear safety, security, emergency preparedness and public policy-- key disciplines important to evaluating Indian Point. Collectively, the Panel brought to this evaluation more than 400 years of experience in executive, operations, engineering, academic and government service positions. The Panel members were selected based on their demonstrated professional capability, personal integrity and the absence of any relationship with Indian Point or its owner, Entergy Corporation, which would compromise their independence.

In addition to communicating these findings in today's announcement, the Panel plans to hold a public meeting this evening and has briefed appropriate public officials, Entergy and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

More details about the conclusions and recommendations made by the Independent Safety Evaluation Panel are available on the Panel's Web site at www.nyindianpoint.org Until August 15th, the Panel may also be reached at (202) 463-8801 or contacted via email at safety@nyindianpoint.org.

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