

Senior Project Manager Bo Pham
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
11545 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Mr. Pham:

The Association of Minority Enterprises of New York, Inc. (AMENY) is a minority and women business enterprise (MWBE) non-for profit trade organization dedicated to the development and enhancement of its constituents, and the economic viability of disadvantaged communities.

The association provides training and technical assistance to its constituents and establishes community support for the MWBE community. AMENY sponsors trade missions, procurement conferences and MWBE certification forums to strengthen the economic capacity of minority business communities. Our mission is also to establish a working relationship with the private and public sectors to foster procurement, employment opportunities and timely economic data.

Since Entergy's arrival in New York with the purchase of the Indian Point Energy Center in 2001, the company has been a model corporate citizen and partner to New York's minority community. While a broad section of New York's population has benefited from Entergy's corporate community involvement, communities of color in particular, have gained a committed partner whose approach to empowerment is economic, social and environmental. Our community can not afford to lose such a model corporate citizen.

Entergy's award winning supplier diversity program is an example of commitment to advancing economic participation and empowerment of minorities. Entergy was the first electric utility holding company in the nation to commit to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's (NAACP) Fair Share Principles, and has exemplified a solid commitment to creating and maintaining a diverse workforce in which every employee is provided with an equal opportunity to contribute to the success of the corporation. The company continues to receive recognition for demonstrating leadership and commitment to ensuring the active participation of minority and women-businesses in the American economic system. In 2006 alone, Entergy spent almost \$190 million with diverse suppliers- nearly \$22 million of which was through the Indian Point Energy Center for procurement with minority and women owned business.

Entergy has also paid more than \$212 million in taxes which bolsters the state, county and local tax bases which is then used to provide services for the residents of New York State and New York City. We must ask ourselves, can we really afford to lose such an example of model corporate citizenship if Indian Point were to close?

Entergy demonstrates its commitment to and respect for our community in other ways also. An example is its charitable contributions to important programs and activities that strengthen the capacity of the African-America and Latino community and our ability to provide for the less privileged among us. The company is a partner in strengthening organizations throughout our community that provide much needed assistance and support to our families, neighborhoods and businesses. Entergy continues to show its commitment to our well being.

This is vital to the health and wellness of our community given the alarming rates of asthma and other respiratory illnesses amongst minorities in New York. It is estimated that the Indian Point Energy Center keeps more than 41,400 tons of nitrogen oxides, 116,300 tons of sulfur dioxide, and 31.8 million tons of carbon dioxide out of the air each year. Again, this is critical for an American neighborhood right here in New York State with one of the highest asthma rates ever documented, according to an article by New York Times Reporter Richard Pérez-Peña. A Harlem Hospital Study found that 25 percent or one of every four children in central Harlem suffered from asthma, which is double the rate researchers expected to find. The Harlem Hospital study suggests that this is certainly one of the highest rates attributed in the United States, if not the highest. With this level of vulnerability being felt by the most helpless among us, are we willing to lose a committed community advocate like Entergy if Indian Point were closed? We say absolutely not.

In closing, the Association of Minority Enterprises of New York fully supports Entergy in its effort to relicense the Indian Point Energy Center. If Indian Point does not remain open, we believe this will greatly impact many of the women- and minority owned businesses in the region through the loss of a major purchaser of their goods and services. The closure of the facility will result in higher taxes and the lack of affordable and reliable energy. In addition, the closure of the facility will exasperate the already poor air quality in the New York City and lower Hudson Valley region.

The Association of Minority Enterprises of New York hereby supports and petitions the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to relicense Indian Point.

We look forward to hearing from you regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Lloyd Douglas
Association of Minority Enterprises of New York