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17TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

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TASK FORCE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3217

March 17, 2006

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Commissioner Antonia C. Novello
New York State Department of Health
14th Floor Corning Tower
Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12237
Facsimile: 518 474 2011

Dear Commissioner Novello,

I am writing to request an immediate release of the data and methodology that the New York State Department of Health used in the recent studies of ground water contamination near Indian Point as stated in The Journal News on March 17, 2006.

As you know, your agency initially reported radiation levels at 150 times the level considered safe by the Environmental Protection Agency. In a follow up analysis, the results were changed based on the discovery that a filter had been changed. As I understand it, based on the different filter, your scientists made assumptions about what they believe the actual level of contamination is now. I believe that an independent analysis of the data and methodology that led to these significantly different results is warranted.

Radioactive materials, both in our groundwater and near the Hudson River, are a serious matter. Any error in determining the level of radioactive material can create profound consequences for the people and ecosystems near Indian Point.

I thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress