

## **Emergency Planning Overview**

Following the accident in 1979 at the Three Mile Island Nuclear Power Plant, the role of emergency and public information for areas surrounding nuclear power plants was reexamined. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) developed additional regulatory requirements and guidelines for emergency planning. The NRC requires nuclear power plant operators to have comprehensive on-site emergency response plans and procedures to be in place at all nuclear power plants. FEMA regulates and evaluates radiological emergency response capabilities off-site at the state and county levels.

### Indian Point Emergency Planning

Entergy is responsible for emergency response planning and activities within the site boundary. Entergy conducts an annual review of the site emergency plan and trains its personnel to respond to a variety of emergencies. This training is practiced and observed in scheduled drills throughout the year. A minimum of eight drills is conducted with controllers and observers monitoring each participant's role. Scenarios for each drill test the overall responsiveness, communication skills, inter-agency communication and effective emergency actions within the site boundary. Lessons-learned from these drills and exercises are implemented by the plant staff.

The objectives of the Indian Point emergency plan are to:

- Assess plant conditions and pathways for any possible release of radioactive material;
- Provide on going monitoring of plant conditions and direct response activities; and
- Provide off-site emergency response officials with plant condition reports, radiation dose projections, and the results of environmental monitoring;
- Implement corrective actions as required.

A radiological emergency at Indian Point would mean that radioactive materials either escaped or could possibly escape from the plant. The materials would be in the form of a vapor or very fine particles that, if released to the air, would be carried by the wind.

Radioactive materials would float with the wind in patterns called plumes— like smoke from a smokestack. While you couldn't see, feel or smell these plumes, state and county emergency workers could accurately track them with scientific instruments.

The goal of emergency planners is to prevent or limit people's exposure to the radioactive materials.

### Notifying Government Officials

If an incident should occur at Indian Point, Entergy notifies the state and local officials using a dedicated telephone line. State and local officials are informed of the incident classification, plant status, weather conditions and actions undertaken by plant personnel to address the incident. State and local officials are responsible for notifying the public concerning any actions needed to protect public health and safety.

### State and County Emergency Planning

Emergency plans also contain detailed implementing procedures that define the actions and responsibilities for the four counties surrounding Indian Point—Westchester, Putnam, Rockland and Orange, and New York State. Officials from the state and the four counties are responsible for off-site activities. The objectives of their plans are to:

- Protect the public by initiating appropriate protective actions;
- Provide independent assessment of any radioactive release; and
- Provide fire, police, medical, and other emergency support capabilities.

These plans must satisfy NRC and FEMA regulations and guidelines for a comprehensive coordinated emergency response. The plans and procedures are periodically tested and evaluated by Entergy, New York State and federal regulators in annual drills and exercises.