

# Feds: Both Indian Point units need full quake analysis

Cara Matthews, cmatthe@lohud.com 3:18 p.m. EST December 2, 2014

*The Nuclear Regulatory Commission, which required new earthquake risk assessments after the Fukushima disaster, denied Entergy's request to perform a less-rigorous analysis on Indian Point Unit 3.*



(Photo: TJN file photo)

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has denied Entergy's request to hold Indian Point Unit 3 to a less rigorous standard for re-assessing its ability to withstand a severe earthquake.

Indian Point Units 2 and 3 are among 10 plants – comprising 18 reactors – in the eastern two-thirds of the country that were classified in the [highest priority category earlier this year](http://story/news/local/indian-point/2014/05/09/nrc-wants-earthquake-study-indian-point/8906597/) ([/story/news/local/indian-point/2014/05/09/nrc-wants-earthquake-study-indian-point/8906597/](http://story/news/local/indian-point/2014/05/09/nrc-wants-earthquake-study-indian-point/8906597/)).

- Entergy argued that based on enhancements and new risk evaluations, Unit 3 shouldn't be in the top category, NRC spokesman Neil Sheehan said. Entergy also said it would be a hardship to conduct a detailed seismic risk analysis for two units simultaneously.
- Entergy did not convince the NRC. "We listened to the arguments and we remain convinced at this point that Indian Point warrants the highest level of attention," Sheehan said.
- Following the March 2011 major earthquake and tsunami that caused a nuclear accident in Fukushima, Japan, the NRC adopted new requirements, including re-assessing plants' ability to withstand a major earthquake.
- Placing Indian Point in the top category doesn't mean the NRC thinks the plant is in jeopardy in the event of an earthquake. "We're talking about low probabilities, but we want plants to be able to guard against these extreme events like they saw at Fukushima," he said.
- The power plants in priority group one have until Dec. 31 to submit expedited re-evaluation plans, and they have until June 30, 2017, to finish the seismic hazard analysis.
- Entergy previously performed an analysis that showed Unit 3 would be protected if the region experienced the strongest earthquake that could be expected, spokesman Jerry Nappi said in an email. It was not reviewed by the NRC. The company anticipates the new assessments ordered by the NRC "will demonstrate similar robust seismic capabilities for each unit," he wrote.
- Riverkeeper thinks Indian Point should be closed until it can be determined whether it poses a risk of releasing radiation following a severe earthquake, said attorney Phillip Musegaas, Hudson River program director for the Ossining-based environmental group.

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