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## **Indian Point Independent Safety Evaluation Panel Provides Vital Service to Community**

New York, NY/July 31, 2008 – Arthur “Jerry” Kremer, Chairman of the New York Affordable Reliable Electricity Alliance (New York AREA) today issued the following statement.

“We commend the distinguished Independent Safety Panel for its thorough and informative report. Panel co-chairs Dr. James Rhodes, former CEO of the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations, and Dr. Neil Todreas, professor of Nuclear Science and Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) recruited an impressive group of independent experts from various disciplines who performed a vital public service by providing new information on the operation of Indian Point and recommendations for continued improvement.

The panel’s concerns about emergency preparedness are best seen in the context that Indian Point, because of its support and involvement in rigorous emergency preparedness activities, makes the region better able to deal with other emergencies, such as weather related ones, which are far more likely than a radiation-related incident at Indian Point. As a result, Westchester and the surrounding region is a safer place to live, but more can be done.

To ensure that the region’s emergency preparedness programs are second to none, we urge Entergy and county emergency planning staffs in the four county emergency planning zone to commit themselves to a renewed spirit of cooperation and professional dedication. This must take place regardless of anyone’s position on nuclear power. The independent panel has rightly pointed out that a spirit of mutual cooperation and respect among emergency planning professionals in the region is a must; the people in our region deserve no less.

Entergy is showing open-mindedness and respect for the findings by agreeing to study and implement recommended changes expeditiously. Its willingness to go the extra mile to initiate another comprehensive review of the facility should be commended. Few other facilities would volunteer for such scrutiny and pass with such high marks in the key areas of concern.

Similarly, Indian Point opponents should note the strong and positive conclusions of the panel on matters related to the safety and security of the plant, a critical asset to the region especially in a time of economic uncertainty and rising costs.”

***About New York AREA:*** Founded in November 2003, the New York Affordable Reliable Electricity Alliance (New York AREA) is a diverse group of more than 125 business, labor, and community groups whose mission and purpose is to ensure that New York has an ample and reliable electricity supply, and economic prosperity for years to come. New York AREA helps to educate policy makers, businesses, and the general public regarding the necessity and importance of safe, low-cost and reliable electricity. Entergy, owner of the Indian Point facility, is a founding member of New York AREA. For additional information visit: [www.area-alliance.org](http://www.area-alliance.org).

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