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NYC: 53 °
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[Forecast](#) | [Radar](#)

NEWS

- [Newsday Homepage](#)
- [New York City](#)
- [NYC Politics](#)
- [Photos of the Day](#)
- [Queens Life](#)
- [Long Island](#)
- [Nation/World](#)
- [Health/Science](#)
- [Obituaries](#)
- [Columnists](#)
- [Print Edition](#)

TRAFFIC

- [New York City](#)
- [Long Island](#)

SPORTS

- [Scoreboard](#)
- [Columnists](#)
- [Yankees](#)
- [Rangers](#)
- [Jets](#)
- [Giants](#)
- [High Schools](#)

BUSINESS

- [Stock Quotes](#)
- [Columnists](#)
- [Technology](#)
- [Real Estate](#)
- [Print Edition](#)

OPINION

- [Letters to the Editor](#)
- [Columnists](#)

Part 2 / FEATURES

- [Books](#)
- [Comics](#)
- [Crossword](#)
- [Food](#)
- [Horoscopes](#)
- [Travel](#)

ENTERTAINMENT

- [Movies](#)
- [Dining](#)
- [Theater](#)
- [Television](#)

CLASSIFIEDS

- [Jobs](#)
- [Homes](#)
- [Cars](#)

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[Paper](#)

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[Webcasts](#)

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Improvement Urged In N-Plant Security

By Kathleen Kerr
STAFF WRITER

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December 13, 2001

A state examination of anti-terrorist plans for Westchester's Indian Point nuclear plant has concluded that security improvements - like special FBI training for some personnel - are necessary, a spokesman for the operating company said yesterday.

State Public Security Director James Kallstrom, charged with defending New York against terrorism, was expected to announce today that overall security at Indian Point is adequate, according to Larry Gottlieb, spokesman for Entergy Corp.

The plant, located on the Hudson River in Buchanan, provides about 20 percent of New York City's electricity.

Kallstrom's office would not comment. Gottlieb said yesterday that the company expected an "extremely robust" report.

In recent weeks, community activists, anti-nuclear groups and lawmakers, including Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-N.Y.), have clamored for better protections for people living within a 50-mile radius of Indian Point, including New York City residents. One concern is that deaths and severe illnesses could occur if a terrorist attack were to damage the plant and release a radiation plume.

Since Sept. 11, Gottlieb said, Entergy has spent about \$3 million to hire an unspecified number of new security workers and to construct barriers to help ward off attacks. Gottlieb said the number of security workers must remain secret to avoid giving information to possible attackers.

Some of the improvements covered by the \$3 million were initiated by Entergy, and some came as a result of Kallstrom's inquiries, Gottlieb said.

"They want a closer tie between us and the FBI in terms of training for security personnel and more advanced tactics," Gottlieb said.

Gottlieb said an armed Navy boat patrols adjacent to the plant and that air defense can be summoned quickly.

Kallstrom is expected to release one version of his report to the news media today, Gottlieb said.

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