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At the same time, Rep. Nita Lowey called for the decommissioning of the two Indian Point plants, saying they present "an unacceptable risk to the safety and security of the New York metropolitan area."

The Democratic congresswoman, who represents most of Westchester County, joins dozens of local officials and activists who have demanded that the plants in Buchanan be shut down at least temporarily because of the threat of an airborne terrorist attack like the one that brought down the World Trade Center. Many say the existing evacuation plan for the area around the plants is nearly useless.

Pataki, a Republican, said the Federal Emergency Management Agency had last certified emergency planning at Indian Point in 1996. He asked that the plans be "completely reassessed to see if they meet the new reality."

President Bush said Tuesday that diagrams of American nuclear power plants had been found by U.S. troops in Afghanistan.



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