Nearly one year ago, we all were shocked and saddened by media images of the massive earthquake and destructive tsunami that occurred at Fukushima. The U.S. and the nuclear industry pledged to do what it could to help our friends in Japan cope and recover. Even with the earthquake and tsunami, as the industry watched events in Japan unfold, it fully expected the plants in Fukushima to remain safely shut down, as nuclear plants are designed to do. To better understand what had happened in Japan, public officials, regulators, scientists, engineers and those of us who own and operate nuclear power plants in the U.S. promised to do a rigorous review and capture lessons learned. And, as nothing is more important than the safety of our neighbors and communities, Entergy pledged to take further steps to ensure our safety equipment is protected and we always remain in a state of preparedness.

At Indian Point Energy Center, we did just that. We verified our procedures for dealing with severe weather and unforeseen natural events. We reviewed our emergency backup systems and added diesel-powered equipment and training to ensure that our multiple layers of safety systems can respond effectively even after severe events. And we are participating in ongoing NRC and industry efforts to further confirm that our safety related structures and components are seismically robust and will perform their function under postulated seismic events. The result of this in-depth and ongoing examination confirmed that our plants are safe, will remain safe, and are prepared for the unexpected.

Well before Fukushima, our plants had vigorous and advanced safety systems in place. We have multiple and various back-up power systems and equipment located in high elevation areas well above potential flooding, some of which are even bunkered for protection, to keep power flowing to the plants under circumstances far worse than the area has seen.

Indian Point is designed to withstand floods twice the level of those seen in the surrounding region and earthquakes 100 times more severe than the worst previously recorded in the area. Fukushima had no such safety margin. And with direction from the NRC’s recent report on Fukushima, we’ll be enhancing our state of preparedness and “defense in depth” even more.

These are just some of the facts that you don’t often read or hear about. But it matters to us that you, our neighbors and communities, know the truth about our operations and preparedness at Indian Point.

We believe in transparency, and that’s why we are encouraging an ongoing dialogue with the public about New York’s energy future and the future of nuclear power. We strongly disagree with opponents who try to use the crisis in Japan to heighten unwarranted fears to further their longstanding goal of closing Indian Point.

All of us at Entergy are committed to safely providing a lower-cost, reliable supply of clean electricity. And we are committed to providing you with the information you need to make an informed judgment regarding New York’s electric future. We encourage you to visit our website, www.rightfornewyork.com, to see for yourself what we do and how we do it.

We are your neighbors. We attend the same schools and support many of the same causes. As one of America’s leading nuclear power plant operators, we are committed to constantly reviewing and strengthening our operations to ensure we are prepared. That’s because safety comes first at Entergy.

J. Wayne Leonard, Chairman and CEO, Entergy Corporation, and the 1,200 employees at the Indian Point Energy Center