

**Ramana, M. V., 2003a, "Assessing emergency plans," *The Daily Times*, March 13.**

An independent evaluation of the emergency plans for the Indian Point reactor near New York revealed serious deficiencies. What little is known of emergency plans in South Asia also reveal deficiencies. The article argues that plans for dealing with large-scale accidents at hazardous facilities, especially nuclear reactors, everywhere should be made with the active involvement of the people living in the vicinity of the facility, and evaluated by independent agencies with the necessary expertise. If they are found to be inadequate, then these plans should be immediately rectified and the necessary infrastructure for dealing with emergencies developed. If that is not possible, the facilities should be closed down.