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SPORTS

Experts split on nuclear vulnerability

Some say jet attack on Indian Point could put region in danger

Roger Witherspoon
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The deliberate crash of a wide-bodied jet into Indian Point may leave the massive containment domes around the nuclear reactors substantially intact, according to plant engineers. But

outside analysts say that may not prevent a reactor meltdown and the spread of radiation throughout the region.

Those divergent views emerged from an examination of the internal structure of Indian Point 2 and 3 by two officials from Entergy Nuclear Corp., which owns the plants, and two outside engineering experts in the nuclear industry. The four together reviewed the schematic diagrams of the plant's containment buildings and their

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Phil Reisman: Evacuation plan leaves doubts, **1B**

support structures and systems during a meeting arranged by The Journal News.

The plans have been withheld from the public for security reasons, but Entergy officials allowed The Journal News and

outside experts to view them in an effort to explain why they believe the public would not be in danger in the event of an aerial attack on the plants.

Entergy's offer to examine the plans comes amid growing community and political criticism of the plants and their ability to sustain a terrorist attack. Calls to shut the plants or convert them to natural gas reached new heights following the destruction of the World Trade Center by two hijacked jetliners Sept.

11. The hijacked planes flew over Indian Point en route to the Twin Towers.

Since Sept. 11, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission has said the plants' containment domes were not designed to withstand such an assault. But Entergy officials have insisted there would be no danger to the region if Indian Point were attacked by air, even if the plants were destroyed.

The outside analysts, however-

Please see **NUCLEAR, 10A**

