

**Communities United to Close Indian Point  
P.O. Box 1316 Cathedral Station  
New York, New York 10025**

January 30, 2007

Hon. Hillary Rodham Clinton  
United States Senate  
476 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
VIA REGULAR MAIL AND  
FACSIMILE TO 202-228-0282

Re: Denying license extensions for Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant

Dear Senator Clinton:

The lack of a viable evacuation plan makes the Indian Point nuclear power plant a Katrina-scale civil defense disaster waiting to happen; we need your help now to deny license extensions for the facility.

A coalition of Manhattan and Westchester community groups would like to meet with you as soon as possible to ask that you please tell the Nuclear Regulatory Commission ("NRC") to deny license extensions for this plant located in Westchester County in Buchanan, New York. We would like to deliver to you petitions signed by more than 7,000 of your constituents who oppose the plant's continued operation.<sup>1</sup> Specifically, we would like you and Senator Schumer to do the following:

1. Write a letter to the NRC opposing license extensions and publicly oppose relicensing,
2. Call for Congressional hearings on
  - a. the NRC's ability to oversee safety at Indian Point and
  - b. the storage and disposal of spent fuel generated during 20-year license extensions and
3. Introduce legislation that would require
  - a. an independent safety assessment of Indian Point as part of the NRC's review of any relicensing application and
  - b. the NRC to apply the same criteria to license extensions for old plants as it currently uses when considering applications for new plants.

Timing on this issue is critical. **Entergy, the owner and operator of Indian Point ("IP"), recently announced that it would apply for 20-year license extensions in March 2007.** IP's two nuclear units are currently licensed until 2013 and 2015, respectively.

The argument against relicensing is crystal clear:

- o The lack of a viable evacuation plan means that the 20 million people who live within the 50-mile "peak injury" zone of IP are at serious risk.<sup>2</sup> A large radioactive release triggered by a terrorist attack on or an accident at the facility could have devastating health and economic consequences.
- o The management of the plant to date underscores that the need for evacuation is a very real possibility. The plant has suffered an alarming series of safety problems, including the continuing leak of

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<sup>1</sup> In addition, through Riverkeeper's web-based relicensing action campaign, over 26,000 letters from concerned residents have been sent to Members of Congress, New York's Governor and the region's State legislators.

<sup>2</sup> Review of Emergency Preparedness of Areas Adjacent to Indian Point and Millstone, James Lee Witt Associates, LLC, p. viii ("the current radiological response system and capabilities are not adequate to . . . protect the people from an unacceptable dose of radiation in the event of a release from Indian Point," January 2003, <http://www.wittassociates.com/1296.xml>; *see also* attached map detailing the "peak injury" zone.

radioactive waste into the Hudson.<sup>3</sup> The storage of 1,500 tons of radioactive waste onsite (an additional 1,000 tons of radioactive waste would be generated under the proposed license extensions) increases the plant's desirability as a terrorist target.

- Finally, studies<sup>4</sup> have shown that there would be enough power available from existing and approved generating units in New York State and neighboring grids, through import over existing transmission lines, to meet the area's electricity needs with the permanent retirement of IP at the end of its current licenses.

Responsible officials, including heads of FEMA, the Department of Homeland Security and the NRC, have been repeatedly and publicly warned about the dire nature of any mishap at IP. Yet these warnings fall on deaf ears, just like the warnings to (and from) the Army Corps of Engineers prior to Hurricane Katrina. The federal government has only a small window of opportunity to close the plant down in an orderly fashion; if license extensions are granted, they will be in effect for 20 years, putting another generation at risk.

We, the citizens who would be directly affected, are urging our elected officials to demand that the NRC deny the proposed license extensions for Indian Point. We are not asking that you take a position against nuclear power—just one in favor of closing a dangerous facility in the most densely populated area of the United States.

Thank you for your expedited attention to this matter. We will contact you in the next few days to set up a meeting.

Sincerely,

Daniele Gerard/Three Parks Independent Democrats,  
danielegerard@yahoo.com, 212-666-2906

Cynthia Doty & Bob Botfeld, District Leaders, 69<sup>th</sup>  
A.D., Part A/Three Parks Independent Democrats

Earl Scott & Anne Raphael, District Leaders, 67<sup>th</sup>  
A.D., Part B/Park River Independent Democrats

Rockland Friends United for Safe Energy (FUSE),  
Susan Shapiro, 845-371-2100

Marc Landis, District Leader, 67<sup>th</sup> A.D., Part C and  
Joan Paylo & Gregory Soumas, District Leaders, 69<sup>th</sup>  
A.D., Part B/Community Free Democrats

Council on Intelligent Energy & Conservation Policy  
(White Plains), Michel Lee, 914-393-2930

Phyllis E. Gunther, District Leader, 67<sup>th</sup> A.D., Part A

Westchester Citizens Awareness Network, Marilyn  
Elie, 914-954-6739

(list in formation)

Copies to Hon. Eliot L. Engel, Hon. Kirsten Gillibrand, Hon. John Hall, Hon. Maurice Hinchey, Hon. Nita M. Lowey, Hon. Carolyn B. Maloney, Hon. Jerrold Nadler, Hon. Charles B. Rangel; Hon. Eliot Spitzer; Hon. Andrew M. Cuomo

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<sup>3</sup> See, e.g., <http://wcbs880.com/pages/34718.php?contentType=4&contentId=140651>;  
<http://www.lohud.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070116/NEWS01/701160357/1276>

<sup>4</sup> Alternatives to the Indian Point Energy Center for Meeting New York Electric Power Needs, National Academies Press, June 2006 [http://orsted.nap.edu/openbook.php?record\\_id=11666&page=R1](http://orsted.nap.edu/openbook.php?record_id=11666&page=R1) ; Indian Point Retirement Options, Replacement Generation, Decommissioning/Spent Fuel Issues, and Local Economic/Rate Impacts, Levitan & Associates, Inc., June 2005 [www.westchester.gov/currentnews/2005pr/levitanreport.pdf](http://www.westchester.gov/currentnews/2005pr/levitanreport.pdf)