

Indian Point:

A Timeline of Accidental Radioactive Leaks and Spills

Decades of accidental radioactive leaks and spills at the Indian Point nuclear power plant have resulted in two extensive plumes of contamination in the groundwater beneath the plant, which leach to the Hudson River. The following is a non-exhaustive list of such incidents, evidencing the ongoing nature of this problem at the aging Indian Point facility:

1988: 8,400 gallons of radioactively contaminated water leak into the Hudson River through a crack in the condenser blowdown line from the refueling water storage tank heating coil of Unit 2.

1992: Leak from a water pool housing toxic nuclear waste generated from Indian Point Unit 2 (known as a “spent fuel pool”) was discovered. Also, during the 1990s, Indian Point Unit 1 spent fuel pools were found to be leaking radioactive water.

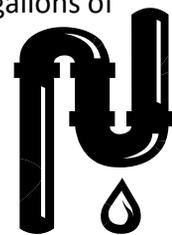
2005: Owner of the plant, Entergy “discovers” new active leaks in the Unit 2 spent fuel pool. Data indicates that leaks had been occurring for years undetected. Entergy attributes a plume of tritium in the groundwater primarily to leaks from the Unit 2 spent fuel pool.



2006: Entergy “discovers” that attempts to prevent additional leaks from Indian Point Unit 1 spent fuel pool fail have failed – water laden with toxic radionuclides including Strontium-90 and Cesium-137 leaks from the pool to the environment at a rate of 70 gallons per day until the end of 2008, when Entergy *finally* emptied the problematic pool. The contamination plume generated due to upwards of decades of leaks from the Unit 1 spent fuel pools will persist in the environment for centuries, leaching through the groundwater and into the Hudson River.

2009: in early 2009, a tank valve located in an Indian Point Unit 1 systems building leaked radioactive water, causing a nearby monitoring well to detect increased radioactivity levels.

2009, February: unmonitored, undetected corrosion in a pipe buried eight feet underground was discovered when a plant worker found himself standing in a puddle of water. About 100,000 gallons of water contaminated with Tritium was released to the already contaminated groundwater. The U.S. Government Accountability Office recently concluded that leaks at nuclear power plants from buried piping systems are expected to continue as such systems, which are largely inaccessible, age and continue to corrode and degrade.



2009, November: radioactive water spills from a storage tank, adding to the existing groundwater contamination. This leak caused various monitoring wells to register increased levels of tritium.

2010: Entergy discovers another new leak in the Unit 2 spent fuel pool. This new leak caused various monitoring wells to register increased levels of tritium. Though Entergy claims that all identified leaks in the Unit 2 pool have been repaired, nearly 40% of the liner of the pool has never been inspected, and Entergy, to this day, concedes that other active leaks from the pool may *still* be occurring.

2011: In June 2011, monitoring wells near Indian Point Unit 1 detected elevated levels of tritium in the groundwater. However, it took several months for Entergy to even identify the leaking component that caused the increased tritium levels in the groundwater.

For more information, visit: www.riverkeeper.org