

THE INDIAN POINT CAMPAIGN

INTRODUCTION

Twenty million people live and work within 50 miles of the Indian Point nuclear power plant, located just 24 miles north of New York City on the banks of the Hudson River in Westchester County. A large radioactive release triggered by an accident or terrorist attack at the facility could have devastating health and economic consequences, rendering much of the Hudson River Valley and New York City uninhabitable.

Due to the plant's vulnerability to terrorism, a laundry list of safety problems, the storage of 1,500 tons of radioactive waste on-site, and the lack of a workable evacuation plan, Riverkeeper has been working toward the permanent shutdown of the Indian Point nuclear power plant. Studies have shown that ***we have enough surplus power to close Indian Point tomorrow and meet demand through 2020, and that another 4,500 megawatts [more than twice Indian Point's capacity] will be available by the time more power is needed.***



THE FUTURE OF INDIAN POINT: CURRENT AND UPCOMING HEARINGS

In 2007, Entergy Corporation, owner and operator of Indian Point, applied to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) seeking to extend the operating license for the facility's two reactors by another 20 years. The 40-year old reactors are currently licensed to operate until 2013 and 2015, respectively. Riverkeeper and the State of New York have intervened to block the relicensing on critically important safety and environmental grounds.

The landmark public hearing on the relicensing of Indian Point will begin THIS SUMMER (2012)! Riverkeeper and New York State will present over 15 separate legal challenges, making it historically the largest and most complex intervention into the relicensing of a nuclear power plant.

In a separate but related proceeding, in 2010 the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) denied a critical water quality certification required for the relicensing of Indian Point. Because Indian Point needlessly kills over a billion fish, eggs and fish larvae annually, and has been leaking radioactive waste into the groundwater and the Hudson River, the State determined that Indian Point's continued operation would violate state water quality standards.

A full hearing on the State's 2010 water quality determination began on October 17, 2011. Riverkeeper is mounting a comprehensive legal effort to support the State and deny the water quality certification Indian Point needs to operate. A victory would mark a turning point in Riverkeeper's decades-long campaign to halt Indian Point's environmental assault on the Hudson River and force the plant's retirement.

PLANT SAFETY

Plant operations are a major concern at Indian Point, which has a long history of safety problems. Currently, the plant does not meet more than 100 federal fire safety standards and has suffered serious deterioration (including corroded piping, leaking spent fuel pools and exploding transformers) during its 40-year operating life. Moreover, in the wake of Japan's Fukushima nuclear meltdown, the NRC has rated Indian Point the most earthquake- vulnerable nuclear facility in America.

RADIOACTIVE WASTE

Indian Point has one of the largest stockpiles of spent fuel in the U.S. Approximately 1,500 tons of radioactive waste is stored in densely packed pools at Indian Point. No containment structures exist over the spent fuel pools, leaving them vulnerable to sabotage. If Indian Point is relicensed, an additional 1,000 tons of highly radioactive waste will be produced and stored at the site indefinitely.

Since the 1990's, radioactive contaminants, including highly toxic Strontium-90 and Cesium-137, as well as tritium have been leaking from Indian Point's spent fuel pools into the groundwater and the Hudson River. Entergy has no realistic plan to prevent future radioactive leaks from ever-aging and degraded plant components. Decades of accidental leaks have resulted in two large plumes of contamination at the site, which Entergy refuses to remediate; instead, these toxic radionuclides will continue to leach into the environment and contaminate the Hudson River for decades.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

The emergency plan for Indian Point relies on the notion that the public would have several hours to evacuate or seek shelter, and that such an evacuation would proceed in an orderly manner. In 2002, then New York Governor George Pataki hired James Lee Witt, the former director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), to assess the adequacy of emergency planning for Indian Point. ***The Witt report criticized virtually every aspect of the emergency plan and concluded that the plan is "not adequate to... protect the people from an unacceptable dose of radiation in the event of a release from Indian Point."***

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Help Riverkeeper close Indian Point and take an important step toward a safer, cleaner, reliable and affordable energy future for our region.

Become a member and make a gift in support of our legal and public awareness campaign. Your gift will enable us to:

- *Wage an historic legal battle to close Indian Point by denying it a 20-year operating license extension.*
- *Retain vitally important experts to testify at hearings that will decide the fate of Indian Point.*
- *Continue our public awareness campaign designed to turn the tide on Indian Point.*

To discuss how **YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE**, or to make a gift to the Indian Point campaign, contact Keeva Young-Wright, Vice President for Development, at (914) 478-4501, ext. 229, or at kyoungwright@riverkeeper.org.

Subscribe to our Email Action Campaign to learn about upcoming hearings and actions you can take in the Indian Point Campaign. Sign up at <http://www.riverkeeper.org/get-involved/take-action/>.

For more information about the campaign and Riverkeeper, visit us at www.riverkeeper.org.