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Please close the Indian Point nuclear facility at the end of its current licenses in 2013 and 2015; time is running out. As you know, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission will decide in 2010 whether or not to grant license extensions. Here are the facts: 1. There is no viable evacuation plan for Indian Point. On the Upper West Side, we can barely get out of town at rush hour, never mind in the event of an emergency. 2. There is no place to store the radioactive waste generated each day by the reactors--more than 1,500 tons to date, with another 1,000 tons estimated if the plant's licenses are renewed. It all remains on site above and below ground. 3. In August 2009, The Daily News reported that the plant "is sitting on enough contaminated soil, by federal estimates, to fill Yankee Stadium with radioactive sludge a foot deep." 4. A 2008 study showed an increased likelihood of an earthquake near Indian Point due to the presence of a hitherto undiscovered fault line less than a mile away. 5. On August 28th, Indian Point experienced its fifth shutdown this year (and its fourth since May); one of these shutdowns was due to a lightning strike near the plant. 6. I am one of the 20 million people living within the 50-mile "peak injury" zone of Indian Point who would be at serious risk in the event of a large radioactive release. The federal government has only a small window of opportunity to close the plant in an orderly fashion at the end of its current licenses; if license extensions are granted, they will be in effect for 20 years, putting another generation at risk. New York State should not wait to see what the NRC decides, but should take action immediately to (1) oppose relicensing and (2) implement, over the next three to five years, a statewide energy replacement strategy that would improve conservation and energy efficiency, upgrade the transmission infrastructure for southeast New York, and increase generation capacity to replace some of Indian Point's 2,000 megawatts. Yes, there will be hard choices to make, but that's what we need leadership for--to explain the alternatives and advocate for the option that best protects New Yorkers and our communities. New York should go full speed ahead to develop replacement power, conservation methods, and green alternative energy sources. I am willing to spend a few dollars more per month on my electric bills and have my state taxes increased to guarantee my safety and that of my children. Indian Point is simply the wrong choice: not this plant, not this place, not this time.



THREE PARKS INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATS

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September 1, 2009

Hon. David Paterson –
Governor, New York State
State Capitol
Albany, N.Y. 12224
Via email to Thomas Congdon

Hon. Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator
757 Third Avenue, Suite 1702
New York, N.Y. 10017
Via email to Phillip Goldfeder

Hon. Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator
780 Third Avenue, Suite 2601
New York, N.Y. 10017
Via email to Robin Chappelle

Re: Indian Point

Dear Governor Paterson, Senator Schumer, and Senator Gillibrand:

The time has come for all three of you to take a strong and public stance against relicensing the Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant. Three Parks and a coalition of Manhattan and Westchester groups met with staff members of Senator Schumer and Senator Clinton in April 2007 and presented them with over 7,000 signatures on petitions opposed to renewing Indian Point's licenses. Last year, Three Parks members and friends sent nearly 100 letters to Governor Paterson urging him to speak out in opposition to relicensing Indian Point and in support of the Office of Attorney General Andrew Cuomo and the Department of Environmental Conservation for challenging the plant's relicensing application:

Just last week, on August 28th, Indian Point experienced its fifth shutdown this year (and its fourth since May). As usual, Entergy, the plant's owner and operator, declared there was no release of radioactivity. But the lack of a viable evacuation plan makes the plant a Katrina-scale civil defense disaster waiting to happen. Moreover, the federal government has only a small window of opportunity to close the plant in an orderly fashion at the end of its current license period in 2013 and 2015; if license extensions are granted, they will be in effect for 20 years, putting another generation at risk.¹

¹ The August 2009 decision of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to complete its safety review of Indian Point is more evidence of the agency's "rubber-stamping" of Entergy's application; the NRC ignored both the safety issues raised by opponents of relicensing, among them New York State, and current events, including a recent nearby lightning strike that closed the plant. See <http://www.lohud.com/article/2009908130407>


As you know, there is no safe place to put the 1,500 tons of radioactive waste currently stored above and below ground at Indian Point—right in New York City's backyard. An additional 1,000 tons of radioactive waste would be generated under the proposed license extensions that Entergy is seeking. Just last week, *The Daily News* reported that the plant "is sitting on enough contaminated soil, by federal estimates, to fill Yankee Stadium with radioactive sludge a foot deep."² A 2008 study indicating a greater likelihood of an earthquake near Indian Point further underscores the urgency of closing the plant.³

Finally, a July 2009 state court decision mandated that Entergy devise an alternative method to cool Indian Point's steam turbines rather than sucking in and returning more than 2.5 billion gallons of Hudson River water daily—2 million gallons per minute—while pulling in and killing fish, eggs, larvae and plant life.⁴ A new cooling system would cost \$1.4 billion; Entergy may be planning to appeal the decision, but the company should certainly be encouraged to avoid this expense altogether by withdrawing its license renewal application now.

Studies 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 Indian Point at the end of its current licenses.⁵ In addition, New York should be emphasizing a statewide energy replacement strategy that would focus on improving conservation and energy efficiency, upgrading the transmission infrastructure for southeast New York, and increasing generation capacity to replace some of Indian Point's 2,000 megawatts.

As residents of New York City, the Three Parks membership is among the 20 million people living within the 50-mile "peak injury" zone of Indian Point who would be at serious risk in the event of a large radioactive release. We call on you to take action now before it's too late. Please use the power of your offices to close Indian Point at the end of its current license period and to develop replacement power now; please let us know if you will come out forcefully against relicensing.

Sincerely,



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² http://www.nydailynews.com/ny_local/bronx/2009/08/27/2009-08-27_contamination_woe_runs_deep_at_indian_point.html

³ <http://www.earth.columbia.edu/articles/view/2235>

⁴ http://www.nydailynews.com/ny_local/2009/07/03/2009-07-03_judge_rules_indian_point_fishkilling_cooling_process_must_stop.html

⁵ 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; Indian Point Retirement Options, Replacement Generation, Decommissioning/Spent Fuel Issues, and Local Economic/Rate Impacts, Levitan & Associates, Inc., June 2005 www.westchestergov.com/currentnews/2005pr/levitanreport.pdf