**Indian Point Safe Energy Coalition**

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**Event**: Press Conference on the Waste Confidence Hearing  
**Time**: 5:30pm  
**Date**: October 30, 2013  
**Place**: Tarrytown Marriott, 670 White Plains Road, Tarrytown, NY

**A Vote of “No Confidence” for Storage of Radioactive Waste**

**Question**: How do you guarantee safe store the deadliest substance on earth for 240,000 years?

**Answer**: You can’t.

Citizens who live within 50 miles of the nuclear reactors at Indian Point will gather at the Tarrytown Marriott Inn on Wednesday, October 30th to participate in the decision making process for the storage of high level radioactive waste at Indian Point. This hearing impacts on the current relicensing of both Unit 2 and Unit 3.

Members of the Indian Point Safe Energy Coalition will be available for interviews at a press conference at the Marriott preceding the meeting at 5:30 PM.

This hearing is one of only twelve being held across the country to allow for citizen input into the Environmental Impact Statement that the agency has developed in the last year. In 2012 Attorney General Schneiderman and others took the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to court for their lack of a plan dealing with the irradiated fuel rods that have accumulated on site since the reactors first began operation 40 years ago, currently 2,700 tons and growing with each refueling. The Court concurred with the Attorney Generals that having “confidence” that there would be adequate storage for high level waste “when needed” was not a legal plan and required the NRC to study the environmental impacts of accidents involving spent fuel storage. The NRC had no plans to deal with accidents involving this spent fuel and so the court ruled that they were out of compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act. NRC was required to develop an assessment of spent fuel failure and must also show what mitigating strategies they have to contain that damage. The draft is available on the NRC website at [http://pbadupws.nrc.gov/docs/ML1322/ML13224A106.pdf](http://pbadupws.nrc.gov/docs/ML1322/ML13224A106.pdf). Public input is supposed to be taken into consideration when the final EIS is released next year.

It is the position of the Indian Point Safe Energy Coalition that this waste which is lethal for 240,000 years should be immediately moved from the pools of water where it is currently kept to dry cask storage. Most importantly, in accordance with principles of solid waste management, no more waste should be generated until there is a plan for proper disposal. We have had the fleeting use of the electricity generated and thus have the responsibility for ensuring that this high level radioactive waste is stored safely and responsibly on site. Transporting such deadly waste to a central depository to an unwilling community is neither safe nor democratic. Yucca Mountain, Nevada, the Congressional choice for national waste depository, was defunded because of opposition from the people of Nevada who did not want to become the high level radioactive waste dump for the entire country. There are no reactors in the state of Nevada. While the federal government has ultimate...
responsibility for accepting this waste there is no independent research to prove that a centralized depository is safer than decentralized ones and no community has stepped forward to become the nation’s dumping ground.

The pools were never designed to handle high level radioactive waste on what has become a permanent basis. Both pools are completely packed. The deadly rods inside the pools have been moved closer and closer together to make room for new waste that is removed from one of the reactors every 9 months so that that Entergy, the owner of Indian Point, can continue operation.

According to the Union of Concerned Scientists, which is not an anti-nuclear organization, these so called “spent” fuel pools constitute a clear and present danger. [http://www.ucsusa.org/search-results.html?cx=010122895869011958748%3Ann99lqiu6vs&cof=FORID%3A10&ie=UTF-8&q=waste+confidence+hearing&sa=Search](http://www.ucsusa.org/search-results.html?cx=010122895869011958748%3Ann99lqiu6vs&cof=FORID%3A10&ie=UTF-8&q=waste+confidence+hearing&sa=Search). They are in buildings of regular commercial construction, not hardened or in containment like the reactor. 21 million people in the metropolitan area, their families, homes, businesses, property and pets are in danger should there be a catastrophic release of radiation. The latest evacuation plan for those in the 10 mile area surrounding the plant states specifically that pets will not be accepted at the relocation centers and advises owners to leave them at home with plenty of food and water. A high level panel of experts, including two former NRC chairs convened in NYC on October 8th of this year and came to the same conclusions. See [http://www.rogerwitherspoon.com/pdfs/energy/formernrcchair.pdf](http://www.rogerwitherspoon.com/pdfs/energy/formernrcchair.pdf) for details. Nuclear Information and Resource Service which is opposed to nuclear power has also raised serious questions about waste storage. See [http://www.nirs.org/radwaste/talkingpoints--wasteconpolicy.pdf](http://www.nirs.org/radwaste/talkingpoints--wasteconpolicy.pdf).

Despite the many unanswered questions raised by these experts, the NRC maintains that storage in the pools is safe. This is also the position of the nuclear industry. However, it is undisputable that the consequences of a major accident involving either or both of the pools due to human error, nature or terrorism could lead the rods to combust in an exothermic fire which, according to the NRC, would spread radiation as much as 500 miles as described in their document NUREG-1738. It is highly unlikely that this could happen with dry cask storage as fuel rods are much more isolated in smaller bundles inside stainless steel capsules which are inside large concrete silos.

High level radioactive waste must be removed from the vulnerable pools where it is currently stored and moved into dry cask storage that cools the rods by convection where it can be monitored. More importantly, we must stop producing additional waste to add to the toxic legacy we are handing down to future generations. We have a surplus of electricity, new transmissions plans have been approved that will save consumers money and it is time to go green, not to stick with a nuclear dinosaur.

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