

Dear [Elected Official],

As you know, Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant will cease operations in the near future and begin the process of decommissioning. Other plants in New York State will do the same in the coming years. Every community with a nuclear facility in New York State will be best served by a decommissioning process in which they have a voice and the process is done according to best practices.

To that end, we are working with Senator Peter Harckham and Assemblymember Sandy Galef to propose legislation to amend the public service law to create a New York State Decommissioning Oversight Board (DOB). We envision legislation that empowers the DOB to protect the public interest by being closely involved in all aspects of the decommissioning process including coordinating the efforts of state agencies, supervising the disbursement of the Decommissioning Trust Funds (DTF), facilitating public involvement, and ensuring transparency during the process. The board can be made up of relevant government officials as well as members of the public including community advocates, union representatives, environmental advocates, scientific experts, etc. to ensure that decisions made are scientifically accurate and technically sound.

The situation at Indian Point in Westchester County is demonstrating the necessity of such active oversight. Entergy and the company they propose to sell their license to, Holtec, are beholden to their shareholders, not the community. As such, they are incentivized to make decisions in their own financial best interests, even if those interests are not aligned with those of the community. For instance, Holtec has already publicly stated they will not return any monies remaining in the DTF to rate-payers when the process is complete. Thus, as local elected officials have pointed out, their priority will be decommissioning Indian Point as quickly and cheaply as possible, rather than following best practices which may be slower or more expensive. Given that Holtec and their partner in the decommissioning plan, SNC-Lavalin, have a history of bribery, corruption, lax oversight, failure to report mishaps, etc, it is imperative that New York State approach this process proactively and assertively.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) recently held a public forum in Cortlandt to solicit public comment on the decommissioning process. At the end of the meeting, the NRC representative summarized what they had heard: residents are unhappy with the NRC, do not feel they have a voice in the process, and do not trust the NRC to provide sufficient oversight. We have seen that firsthand with the NRC signing off on construction of the "Algonquin" Pipeline expansion under the plant, threatening the reactors and the irradiated spent fuel stored there.

New York State must listen to those the NRC ignores. Residents may not have a voice in this process, but New York State can exert the power it has to oversee this process and ensure that the best interests of communities across the state are the top priority during decommissioning.

As your constituents, we ask that you engage with Senator Harckham and Assemblymember Galef in their efforts, ensure the bill effectively advocates our community interests, consider co-sponsoring this legislation when it becomes available, and vote in favor of it when it comes before your legislative body.

Sincerely,

[Names of Attendees]