

Docket, Hearing

From: Lissa Weinmann [lweinmann@gmail.com]
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To: Docket, Hearing; Siarnacki, Anne
Cc: Michael Fedoruk
Subject: public comment from NYC mom and homeowner on Indian Point

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OFFICE OF SECRETARY
RULEMAKINGS AND
ADJUDICATIONS STAFF

Ms. Anne Siarnacki

Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Region I

Public Comments on Relicensing of Indian Point Reactors

Dear Ms. Siarnacki and NRC Staff,

I am writing to voice my family and my strong objection to the relicensing of the Indian Point nuclear reactors.

I also wish to voice our objection to the 'timely renewal' provision that will allow the corporate owners of the plant to continue operation past the original license expiration date. This flies in the face of the recent court of appeals decision that no reactors should be relicensed until a solution for the radioactive waste problem is dealt with.

I also wish to support Governor Cuomo and other public officials' opinion that the reactor should close. The state has already refused to issue the permits that allow Entergy to use the Hudson River to cool the plant, so the reactor is already violating the law by operating without the state's permit. The state's actions reflect the democratic will of a majority of New Yorkers that Entergy should use its own resources – not our river – to cool the plant. If it's too costly for Entergy to cool the plant on its own, then it should to invest in energy sources that can proffer it better profits.

Like former CEO of Exelon Corporation has said, there is no future for nuclear power in the US due to the 'back end' cost of waste management and also the staggering use of precious water resources. New Yorkers

don't want to prop-up a failing industry and the federal government and NRC shouldn't be enabling this anachronistic, dead-beat industry either.

As a taxpayer and home owner in both New York and Vermont, I am dismayed by what I view as the NRC's allegiance to the nuclear industry and insensitivity to citizen demands. In Vermont, the NRC pushed forward a relicensing of the troubled Vermont Yankee reactor despite the wishes of the state just days into the Fukushima catastrophe, without even a modicum of understanding of what actually happened when this other GE Mark1 reactor exploded and to this day continues to contaminate the environment. That was a slap in the face to us all.

More than 100,000 Japanese have had to leave their homes forever, and many more wish they could leave the perimeter. I do not wish to take a risk, even the smallest risk, that a similar incident could happen at either of my homes.

There is no feasible evacuation plan for Indian Point. That alone should be grounds for closure. It is unacceptable that the plant continues operation absent a viable plan for escape. The same holds true at Vermont Yankee despite the lower surrounding population.

The fact is that continuing to run these old plants past their prime – and in the case of Vermont Yankee at 120% of its intended output -- puts everybody at risk. Germany took the prudent step of shuttering all its GE Mark 1 reactors after Fukushima, and we should do the same. The writing is on the wall about nuclear power -- too costly, too dirty, more research needed to do it right.

I am not 'anti-nuke' but I am anti-stupid, anti-reckless and against my taxpayer dollars propping up a failing industry. An industry that is not required to clean up its own waste. An industry that is freed from liability should an accident occur. An industry that has enjoyed too cozy a relationship with you, our public servants and federal regulators. It is time for real change.

I hope Chairperson McFarlane has the courage to make these tough decisions on behalf of safety. New York, Vermont and the country at large will be safer without these old reactors. It will force us to make better, cleaner energy decisions -- like whether billions in subsidies for nuclear make any sense at all when other alternative energy sources could better use those funds.

There's plenty to do without the reactors – like safeguarding the stunningly over-crowded spent fuel pools, especially at Vermont Yankee and the Pilgrim reactor in Massachusetts. And there's plenty of money to be made doing it as the industry transitions out of energy production and into waste management. This is where the future lies.

Please do not relicense Indian Point. And please respect the democratic voice of we the people when our legislators and public officials say NO to these aging, leaking dinosaurs in our midst. Return to the safety standards you sacrificed after Yankee Rowe proved too costly to relicense. Please keep my kids and I, not industry profits, in mind as you go about your business of keeping Americans safe from nuclear power.

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