

Annette Vietti-Cook
 Secretary of the Commission
 Office of the Secretary
 Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff
 U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
 Washington, DC 20555-0001

17 Josephine Blvd.
 Shoreham, NY 11786
 September 12, 2012

Re: Indian Point Units 2 and 3 License Renewal Application
 NRC Docket Nos. 50-247-LR and 50-286-LR
 ASLBP No. 07-858-03-LR-BD01

DOCKETED
 USNRC

September 19, 2012 (8:30 a.m.)

OFFICE OF SECRETARY
 RULEMAKINGS AND
 ADJUDICATIONS STAFF

Dear Secretary Vietti-Cook:

My name is Dr. Matthew Cordaro and I write to my express support for the license renewal of Units 2 and 3 at the Indian Point Energy Center, in Buchanan, New York. It is my understanding that the NRC is considering numerous issues in connection with the license renewal application, including the potential for alternative energy sources.

I have spent more than 40 years in the electric utility industry, serving in various executive capacities including as CEO of the Midwest Independent System Operator. I am intimately familiar with the delicate relationship between electric grid reliability and the continued operation of a large baseload generator like Indian Point, providing 2000 megawatts of power to New York's transmission system.

Indian Point is essential to maintaining fuel diversity, ensuring electric reliability, and meeting New York's ever-growing demand for energy. It is the largest in-state supplier of baseload power to the downstate region, providing nearly 30 percent of New York City's electricity. The New York Independent System Operator (NYISO) and Con Edison both warn that Indian Point's closure would drastically reduce grid reliability in the state. NYISO repeated that warning in its recently released 2013 draft Reliability Needs Assessment, which concludes that New York's electric grid will face serious reliability issues starting in 2016 if Indian Point were to be retired at the end of 2015. The grid operator further warns that without increases in generation and infrastructure improvements, it will have to "take emergency operations measures including load relief to eliminate the transmission security violations in Southeastern New York."

New York's transmission system is simply not capable of handling the excess strain that would result from the loss of Indian Point. NYISO warns that any significant reduction in electric reliability will have major negative impacts, including blackouts, economic disruption, and serious safety issues. We need not look any further than the 2003 northeast blackout, during which New York lost more \$1 billion in a 24-hour period. This reality is compounded by the fact that there currently is not enough existing transmission or generation capacity – nor will there be by 2016 – to meet the region's electric demand, which is projected to grow significantly in the coming years.

Any efforts to upgrade and expand our state's transmission and generation infrastructure will take time and money and will undoubtedly face opposition. Given these factors alone, it is

highly improbably – if not impossible – that New York would be prepared to deal with the loss of Indian Point.

The loss of Indian Point will also drive up electric rates for New York consumers. A study from the consulting firm Charles River Associates commissioned by the New York City Mayor's office found that wholesale power prices will increase by 5-10 percent if Indian Point were to shut down in 2015. The added costs from higher wholesale power prices would mount significantly over time. By 2030, New York consumers will have paid between \$10 and \$12 billion in higher energy costs while at the same time having less reliable power.

Indian Point is essential to electric affordability and reliability in New York. The plant ensures the smooth operation of New York's electric grid and compensates for deficiencies in an aging transmission infrastructure. Indian Point's continued operation guarantees that the lights will stay on in our homes and businesses and that New York's critical transportation, health, and municipal systems will have the power they need to operate.

Given these factors, I encourage the ASLB exercise its diligence in considering the many benefits that Indian Point brings to downstate New York and take the steps necessary to support the renewal of its operating license.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very Truly Yours,



Matthew C. Cordaro, Ph.D.

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