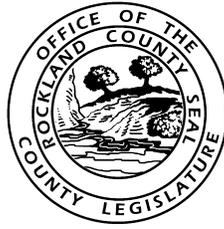


Press



Release

11 New Hempstead Road, New City, NY (845) 638-5100 Fax: (845) 638-5675 Email: legclerk@co.rockland.ny.us.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Laura Incalcaterra
Communications Director
845-638-5184

Wolfe & Cornell: Shut Down Indian Point

Missing Bolts Just Latest Evidence Nuclear Plant Cannot Be Relied Upon When It Comes To Health & Well-Being Of People & The Environment

New City, NY (June 9, 2016) – Rockland County Legislators Alden H. Wolfe and Harriet Cornell are calling for the closure of the Indian Point nuclear power plant after noting repeated safety concerns at the four-decade-old facility.

“The facts show that there should be NO future for this plant,” said Legislature Chairman Wolfe (D-Montebello). “Indian Point was not built to withstand a catastrophe such as a terrorist attack, an earthquake or a pipeline explosion, and there is a long list of continued safety problems, the latest of which involves missing and damaged bolts in the Unit 2 nuclear reactor.

“Not just any bolts, but the very lynchpins that mean the difference between a safe operating temperature and a nuclear melt-down, with the release of deadly radiation that would spread to the surrounding area and everyone living and working in it,” Wolfe said.

He pointed out that the bolts are just one problem in a long and growing history of the truly frightening - multiple unplanned or emergency shutdowns, spiked concentrations of radioactive tritium-contaminated water leaking into groundwater, the spilling of 3,000 gallons of oil into our beloved Hudson River, leaking fuel pods, and more.

Cornell (D-West Nyack), who chairs the Legislature’s Environmental Committee, said the list of problems stretches back decades and in 1984, when she joined the Legislature, she authored legislation to create a Citizens’ Commission to Close Indian Point.

Everyday citizens working with grassroots organizations have repeatedly demanded more attention be paid to Indian Point as the efforts to close it have continued.

“Were it not for the superhuman efforts of concerned individuals and dedicated scientific and environmental organizations focusing attention on the dangers posed by Indian Point, who knows what might have happened during the last 40+ years,” Cornell said.

The latest fiasco involving the bolts highlights the increasing concern by residents, she said, noting 1 out of every four bolts in the Unit 2 reactor were degraded or flat out missing!

“Most of us wouldn’t drive a car if we knew that one out of four bolts holding our car together was missing or broken,” Cornell said. “Why should a weaker standard apply for a nuclear reactor where an accident would be catastrophic?”

The incidents are proof of what Indian Point has become: aged infrastructure that can’t be relied upon when it comes to the health and well-being of the public and the environment, the legislators said.

“It seems that the world has gone crazy, when a ticking time bomb and attractive terrorist target sitting on a fault line near a new natural gas pipeline route is not only deemed safe for operation, but appropriate for one of the most densely populated metropolitan areas in the country,” Wolfe said. “Simple logic demands that the plant be shut down.”

Wolfe and Cornell submitted written comments to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission as part of the agency’s “Annual Assessment” meeting to discuss Indian Point’s safety record of the previous year; in this case, 2015.

Prior to the June 8 meeting, the legislators joined with advocates calling for the facility’s closure, including the Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Friends of the Earth and Riverkeeper.

Wolfe noted that the situation is not all doom and gloom because thanks to the efforts of many, including Gov. Andrew Cuomo, we are seeing an increase in the inclusion of alternative renewable energy sources in our power portfolio. By 2030, 50 percent of New York State’s power mix is to include renewables such as wind, solar, geothermal and hydroelectric power. Wolfe has asked the PSC not to consider nuclear power generation as “clean” energy or to include it in the state’s milestones.

Indian Point can produce about 2,000 megawatts of power, but new reports indicate that the New York Power Authority doesn’t purchase electricity from Indian Point anymore, as it has found cheaper electricity elsewhere. Wolfe also pointed out that Indian Point’s energy generation largely benefits residents of New England, not New York State.

###

Visit us: <http://www.rocklandgov.com>
Like us on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/rockleg>