



THE CITY OF NEW YORK MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 3

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December 2002 Resolution

At its December 2002 monthly meeting, Community Board #3 passed the following motions:

TITLE: Support for Closure of Indian Point Plant

WHEREAS, the September 11, 2001 attack on America has demonstrated that a new form of terrorism threatens the lives of Americans, and the economy, property and natural resources on which they depend; and

WHEREAS, terrorists have made numerous credible threats to focus future attacks on America's infrastructure, including our nation's nuclear power plants; and

WHEREAS, on January 29, 2002, President Bush in his State of the Union says: "We have found diagrams of American nuclear power plants [in al Qaeda camps]... [and] thousands of dangerous killers...are now spread throughout the world like ticking time bombs, set to go off without warning;" and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2002, Secretary Donald Rumsfeld told the country to be prepared for surprise attacks that will be "vastly more deadly" than the Sept. 11th catastrophe; and

WHEREAS, of the nation's 103 nuclear power reactors, the Indian Point plant is an especially inviting target given its proximity to the greater New York metropolitan area --home to 21 million people and the world's financial centers; and

WHEREAS, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has acknowledged that nuclear facilities and their safety control mechanisms, including those at Indian Point, were not designed to withstand or repel a substantial terrorist attack; and

WHEREAS, the complex and interconnected system of nuclear reactors, spent fuel storage structures, control rooms, and electrical switching equipment provides multiple target opportunities by which a sophisticated and determined terrorist attack could cause a catastrophic radiological event, and

WHEREAS, a meltdown or radiological fire could lead to tens of thousands of near- and long-term deaths and cases of chronic radiation sickness, devastate the region's economy, and render uninhabitable much of the greater New York metropolitan area; and

WHEREAS, Indian Point's Emergency Response Plan and the Radiological Emergency Response Plan for the 10-mile emergency planning zone are known to be wholly defective in their ability to evacuate area residents and workers in the event of anything but a minor radiological release; and

WHEREAS, any benefits that the Indian Point plant provides are greatly outweighed by the risks; and

WHEREAS, the implementation of comprehensive energy efficiency and conservation measures and the ability to draw power from New England which has an energy surplus can easily "replace" the electricity once provided by Indian Point, thus avoiding the risk of brownouts or significant increases in energy bills, and

WHEREAS, an immediate closure of Indian Point, especially if taken in concert with other safety measures described below, would substantially reduce the risks and consequences of an attack or accident, both in the near and long term, and

WHEREAS, a rapidly growing confederation of government, business, civic and environmental leaders have called on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to: (1) order an immediate closure of Indian Point's Unit Two and Unit Three reactors (2) mandate immediate deployment of security measures sufficient to repel a terrorist attack on the reactors, spent fuel pools, control room or electrical equipment; and (3) separate and apart from above, order the immediate transfer of the plant's irradiated spent fuel rods (older than five years) from wet pool storage to hardened onsite storage systems.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that Community Board #3 of the Borough of Manhattan joins the coalition supporting immediate closure and safe and orderly decommissioning of Indian Point; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the appropriate authorities seek an assessment of alternative means of providing our region with a sufficient supply of power, including the feasibility of converting the Indian Point site to an alternative electric generating facility and implementing and enhancing comprehensive energy efficiency and conservation measures; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the appropriate authorities seek an assessment of the number of jobs retained for the safe and orderly decommissioning of the Indian Point facility and develop ways of mitigating plant closure impacts on the Indian Point labor force; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NRC must take prompt action to permanently retire the Indian Point facility and take all measures necessary to minimize the risks associated with the terrorist threat to the Indian Point Nuclear Power Station, and therefore the protection of the greater New York metropolitan area; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chair is authorized to execute any documents in furtherance of this effort to permanently close Indian Point.