

Chief, Rules and Directives Branch  
Division of Administrative Services  
Office of Administration  
Mailstop T-6D59  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
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One of the three prongs of the mission of the African American Men of Westchester is “to focus attention on social issues which have a disproportionately negative impact on the African American community.” Accordingly, the issue of energy usage and how it affects the finances, health and environment of the African American community is a major concern of our organization due to the potential implications of the Indian Point Energy Center not receiving their license renewal.

Entergy has a long history of serving as a generous corporate citizen and advocate for the well-being of minority communities, which has made it an ideal partner for our outreach program. Our organization feels that it is in the best interest of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to relicense Indian Point because Entergy values investment in our community and the daily operation of the plant protects our quality of life.

If Indian Point’s license is not renewed, New York will feel this impact in many ways including increased electricity costs. New York’s Energy Costs are already among the highest in the United States, according to the Public Policy Institute. African-American residents will be affected because this adjustment will increase the cost of living while income remains the same.

This financial impact will also produce broad repercussions for African-American businesses as well. The increased cost of electricity could have a devastating effect for minority businesses that already feel the pinch of limited access to capital. The cost of doing business in New York State is substantially higher than in most other states because employers here must pay higher taxes for electricity and other costs, according to a new "Just The Facts" data compilation by The Public Policy Institute.

Not only does Indian Point’s operation keep energy costs manageable, but there are also numerous environmental, health, and welfare benefits of a non-greenhouse gas-emitting source like nuclear energy. Currently, minority communities are facing serious

risks due to fossil fuels. As an example, Harlem has one of the highest asthma rates in the nation, according to a 2004 study.

If Indian Point is not relicensed, the power will have to come from sources other than nuclear and these have already been determined to be inadequate substitutions. Since 1973, nuclear energy has displaced 4.3 billion barrels of imported oil and reduced our trade deficit by \$12 billion. Despite protest by environmental groups, Indian Point is responsible for generating an average of 38% of the lower Hudson Valley and New York City's electricity – enough to power 2,000,000 homes, according the New York Independent System Operator.

When determining whether Indian Point Energy Center should qualify for license renewal, consider how the plant improves the quality of life of all New York residents, both directly and indirectly. Indian Point provides our state with an energy source that is unmatched in potential, a clean energy alternative, and a deeply community invested partner in Entergy.

For the aforementioned reasons, the African-American Men of Westchester hereby supports and petitions for the relicensing of the Indian Point Energy Center.

We look forward to hearing from you regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Melvin Burress  
President, African-American Men of Westchester