



Indian Point Update



Indian Point Energy Center featured on Fox News' Hannity program

On the April 9 edition of *Hannity* on Fox News, the Indian Point Energy Center (IPEC) was a focal point to detail the importance of nuclear energy to energy independence and the economy. The special segment was titled *6 Ways to Save America* and highlighted the economic impact of nuclear energy.

"These are extremely valuable plants, not just for this area, not just for the electricity it provides which is immensely important, but for the economic impact it has on this community," commented Jim Steets, spokesman for Entergy Nuclear. "Think of it. There are 1,100 permanent employees here. We have about a \$750 million economic impact in this area."

The host of the program, Sean Hannity, used this statement to support the growing desire from some lawmakers to expand our use of nuclear energy.

"The reality is nuclear power is clean, it's safe, and it produces the quantities of energy that we need for a strong economy.



Yucca Mountain in Nevada, proposed site for used nuclear fuel storage. Source: NRC.gov

There is no reason to not move forward other than political bias," added U.S. Congressman John Shadegg.

The issue of used fuel and the proposed Yucca Mountain disposal site was also addressed during the program.

Yucca Mountain in Nevada was recently in the news after the Obama administration decided to scale back funding for the initiative. To date, more than \$9 billion has been

on construction of the permanent used fuel storage repository at Yucca Mountain.

In lieu of a permanent federal repository, utility companies have responsibly planned for storage of their used fuel on the grounds at the respective power plants.

Indian Point Energy Center currently has eight canisters of used fuel in so-called dry cask storage (DCS).

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These DCS containers are approximately twenty feet tall, weigh between 150 and 180 tons, and have been tested for their structural integrity under the most extreme conditions in order to demonstrate their robustness.

To read the entire transcript from this television program, visit <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,514043,00.html>



John Janicki, Superintendent, Dry Cask Storage at Indian Point Energy Center

Interview with John Janicki, Superintendent of Dry Cask Storage at Indian Point

What is Dry Cask Storage?

Dry Cask Storage is a method many nuclear power plants are using to store used, or “spent”, fuel. After about four years, the fuel has lost a good portion of its energy and is removed from the reactor. This fuel is then stored in a secure underground pool of water where it is cooled. After about five years the fuel in this underground pool is cool enough to be taken out and placed in large steel and concrete containers called “casks”.

Why don't Indian Point and other power plants just keep the used fuel in the underground pool?

We actually have been storing our used fuel in these pools for more than 30 years. However, IP along with many of our country's nuclear power plants are beginning to run out of space in these pools. When nuclear power plants were constructed, there was an understanding that the federal government would at

some point take this used fuel from the power plants and place it in a federal storage facility. Electricity ratepayers have been paying the government for many years to construct this facility – called Yucca Mountain. However, it is unclear whether this storage facility will ever open.

Because the utility companies couldn't wait any longer for the federal government to act, they developed this Dry Cask Storage system to hold the used fuel so that more space in the spent fuel pools could be freed up in order to hold the more recently used fuel fresh from the reactor.

Describe the containers, or “casks”, that hold the used fuel.

The casks that hold the used fuel are about 20 feet high and when fully loaded weigh about 180 tons. They are constructed of steel and filled with high-density concrete. We currently have eight of these casks at IPEC where they have been placed on a

seismically engineered concrete storage pad. Over 20 miles of steel rebar was used in the construction of the pad.

How many casks currently sit on the storage pad? What are the future plans for this initiative at IPEC?

Right now there are 8 casks on the storage pad. Three casks contain spent fuel that was used in Indian Point Unit 2 and five casks contain spent fuel that was used in Indian Point 1. This year we plan on loading 3 more casks with used fuel from unit 2 and in 2011 we plan on loading used fuel from unit 3.

“Electricity ratepayers have been paying the government for many years to construct this facility – called Yucca Mountain.”

Indian Point Security Participates in Realistic Training Exercises

This spring IPEC successfully completed security training exercises evaluated by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The security program is called *Force on Force* and it simulates the actions of both IPEC's security team and hostile forces if there were to be an assault on a nuclear power plant.

“These evaluated exercises really are as close to reality as you can get without using live ammunition,” said Dan Gagnon, Manager of Security at IPEC. “The mock assault forces are extremely well trained and experienced professionals, but so is IPEC's security force.”

In order for the simulation to be as realistic as possible, Indian Point Security and the hostile forces utilize Multiple Integrated Laser Equipment, or “MILES”, which simulates bullet accuracy using laser technology during tactical combat. The hostile forces are a trained military taskforce working for the NRC and their goal is to destroy key safety equipment at the power plant.

The exercises this year took place over a period of three days in May.

IPEC has successfully completed the goals in the *Force on Force* training and continues to engage in NRC security oversight programs.

Entergy partners with local Fire District

Entergy Nuclear continued its commitment of supporting the local community this May by supporting the North Highlands Fire District in Cold Spring. The Fire District was awarded a \$15,000 grant that will be used toward the construction of their new Emergency Worker Personnel Monitoring Center, which is encompassed within the North Highlands Fire Department.

This new facility will also help support the Putnam County Emergency Plan, which informs residents in the surrounding area of the procedures to follow in case of an emergency.



Pictured above is Indian Point Energy Center's Manager of Training, Bob Christman, presenting a check to Larry Brigati, Chairman, and John VanTassel, Vice-Chairman of the Board of Fire Commissioners.

“Good communication is a two way process, so we very much welcome your suggestions, questions and comments on any subject having to do with the Indian Point Energy Center. And we are especially interested in your ideas as to how we may better communicate with our neighbors.”

Mike Kansler
*President,
 Entergy Nuclear*

West Point cadets make annual trek to Indian Point

Cadets from the United States Military Academy at West Point visited IPEC this spring as part of what has become an annual tour of the nuclear plant. Entergy is proud to facilitate this program for our nation’s future engineers and soldiers so that they have an opportunity to become familiar with the workings of a commercial nuclear power plant.

While on the tour, cadets had a chance to view the turbine hall for units 2 and 3, a control room, the fuel storage building and witnessed a demonstration by control room operators in the unit 2 control room simulator.

Last year, more than 750 individuals participated in IPEC’s tour program. Tours



Cadets posing for a picture inside the Unit 3 Turbine Room.

of IPEC are available to interested organizations. If your organization is interested in a tour, please contact Jerry Nappi at (914) 271-7132.

Comments? Questions?

Let us know what you think about the Indian Point Newsletter. Contact us at: <http://www.safesecurevital.org/contact-us/>



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