

RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO THE DISCHARGE OF CONTAMINATED WATER INTO THE HUDSON RIVER

WHEREAS, the company decommissioning the Indian Point nuclear power plant has announced its intention to release water from onsite radioactive fuel waste pools into the Hudson River; and

WHEREAS, to date there has been no specific reporting of the radionuclide contents of this water which is heavily contaminated from the storage of the nuclear fuel waste; and

WHEREAS, pre-release filtration to remove these isotopes has been presented as a solution to reduce the content of these carcinogenic contaminants to a level “as low as reasonably achievable;” and

WHEREAS, the National Academy of Science has indicated that there is no verifiable safe level of these isotopes when they are ingested or inhaled.; and

WHEREAS, such pre-release treatment would not remove tritium, also carcinogenic, from the water; and

WHEREAS, any contaminants in the Hudson present the risk of entering the food chain; and

WHEREAS, there are community members who depend on fish from the river as a food source; and

WHEREAS, in addition, there are seven communities upriver who source their drinking water from the Hudson; and

WHEREAS, since the River is an estuary that flows from south to north as well as from north to south, this fact must be considered; and

WHEREAS, the river also serves as a source of recreational activities and represents an economic resource that will be endangered by this reckless action; and

WHEREAS, New York State Senator Peter Harckham and New York State Assemblywoman Dana Levenberg have proposed legislation which would ban release of radioactive waste into the Hudson River from the Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant; Now,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Westchester County Board of Legislators strongly opposes the plan to release over a million gallons of contaminated water from the Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant site into the Hudson River; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Westchester County Board of Legislators supports Senator Harckham's and Assemblywoman Levenberg's legislation, S.5181, with regard to prohibiting the discharge of any radiological agent into the waters of the state from nuclear power plants; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Board of Legislators is directed to send a copy of this resolution to Governor Kathy Hochul, Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, bill sponsors Senator Peter Harckham, Assembly Member Dana Levenberg, and the Members of the Westchester County State Delegation.

Dated:

, 2023

White Plains, NY

COMMITTEES ON