


September 15, 2025

TO: Hon. Vedat Gashi, Chair
Hon. Jose Alvarado, Vice Chair
Hon. David Imamura, Majority Leader
Hon. Margaret Cunzio, Minority Leader

FROM: Kenneth W. Jenkins 
County Executive

RE: **Message Requesting Immediate Consideration: Act – Westchester
County’s Opposition to the Reopening of Indian Point Nuclear Power
Plant.**

This will confirm my request that the Board of Legislators allow submission of the referenced communication to be submitted to the Board of Legislators September 15, 2025 Agenda.

Attached for your consideration is a proposed Act, as referenced above.

Therefore, since this communication is of the utmost importance, it is respectfully submitted that the County Board of Legislators accepts this submission for September 15, 2025 “blue sheet” calendar.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.



Kenneth W. Jenkins
County Executive

September 15, 2025

Westchester County Board of Legislators
Michaelian Office Building
148 Martine Avenue, 8th Floor
White Plains, New York 10601

Dear Honorable Members of the Board:

I respectfully request that your Honorable Board adopt the attached "AN ACT declaring Westchester County's Strong Opposition to the Reopening of Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant".

Indian Point in Buchanan shut down permanently on April 30, 2021 following years of opposition by environmentalists concerned by possible nuclear pollution of the Hudson River or the surrounding communities. Holtec International was retained to decommission the plant and prepare the land for new uses.

Members of the communities surrounding Indian Point raised environmental concerns about the plant for decades – highlighting the potential for contamination of groundwater, soil, and the Hudson River itself. Public Safety specialists have also highlighted the plant as a potential target for terrorist attacks; any such attacks would have horrific impact on the entire Hudson Valley, and even New York City.

In June of 2024, the Indian Point Decommissioning Oversight Board found that radiological substances were discharged into the Hudson River in a process potentially inconsistent with New York State law prohibiting the discharge of radiological substances in connection with decommissioning. In July of 2024, inspectors found a radioactive isotope of cesium while performing surface soil sampling. Both incidents highlight the persistent environmental risk posed by Indian Point, even years after its closure.

Westchester County has historically supported the closure of Indian Point, and shares the concerns expressed by residents regarding the environmental and public safety risks posed by the plant.

Pursuant to express language contained in section IV, paragraph C. of the Joint Proposal regarding Indian Point decommissioning and site restoration signed on April 14, 2021, Holtec agreed that it "[would] not propose the siting of new nuclear reactors at the site unless local government entities, the County and the state agree to support or not oppose such an application."

The purpose of this proposed act is to explicitly state Westchester County's opposition to the reopening of the Indian Point nuclear power plant, in consideration of recent discussions regarding the possible reactivation of the plant. Low cost, efficient, and environmentally conscious energy options are available to New York State, including solar, wind, geothermal and hydropower.

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Westchester's residents do not support the reactivation of a power source which – four years after its closure – continues to pose an environmental hazard.

In light of the aforementioned, I respectfully urge that your Honorable Board adopt the attached Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kenneth W. Jenkins', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Kenneth W. Jenkins
County Executive

Enclosure

TO: HONORABLE BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER

Your Committee has reviewed the attached, “AN ACT declaring Westchester County’s Strong Opposition to the Reopening of Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant.”

Your Committee has reviewed the history of the Indian Point nuclear power plant; after years of shutdowns, leaks, and even the explosion of a transformer in 2015 that caused the closure of Reactor 3, Entergy announced that it would be selling the plant for decommissioning in February of 2019. The plant shut down permanently in April of 2021, and Holtec International began decommissioning operations under the oversight of New York State’s Indian Point Decommissioning Oversight Board (DOB).

Your Committee recognizes that the DOB found that radiological substances were discharged into the Hudson River as part of the decommissioning of Indian Point. Further, inspectors later identified cesium isotopes in surface soil sampling near the plant, indicating that radioactive material could have leaked from the plant. Your committee is aware of many hazards which occurred during the operation of the plant including the leak of tritium into nearby groundwater; the repeated shutdown of reactors due to electrical problems, pump failures, and even bird ‘streaming’ in 2015. Radioactive fluids were found to be leaking from the plant into nearby groundwater as far back as 2005; through its nearly 60 year operational history, Tritium and other cancer-causing radionuclides, including Strontium-90, Cesium-137, Cobalt-60 and Nickel-63 were all identified as leaking from the

plant into nearby groundwater. Your Committee acknowledges that these incidents highlight the environmental hazards posed by the plant, both during its operation and after its closure.

Your Committee further recognizes that, throughout the operating life of Indian Point, the nuclear power plant was repeatedly identified as a possible target for terrorism. A 2013 report by the Nuclear Proliferation Prevention Project found that Indian Point was vulnerable to a sea-borne terrorist attack, and that such an attack could result in reactor core damage or a spent fuel pool fire and a catastrophic release of radiation. Your Committee also acknowledges that a meltdown at the plant would have put the lives of the 20 million people living within 50 miles of the plant at risk.

Your Committee acknowledges that the Westchester County Board of Legislators has received repeated contact from community organizations, including the Sierra Club and Riverkeeper, and from Westchester County residents, advocating in favor of the closure of the plant, over the last 13 years.

Your Committee is further advised that the purpose of this proposed legislation is to explicitly state Westchester County's opposition to the reactivation of the Indian Point nuclear power plant, in consideration of the persistent environmental hazard posed by the plant through its operational lifespan as well as through the decommissioning process; in consideration of the public safety risk a reactivated plant would present on an ongoing basis; and in consideration of the persistent opposition of Westchester County's residents to the reactivation of the plant.

As you know, this Honorable Board must comply with the requirements of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (“SEQRA”). The proposed act does not meet the definition of an action under New York State Environmental Quality Review Act and its implementing regulations 6 NYCRR Part 617. Please refer to the memorandum from the Department of Planning dated January 14, 2025, which is on file with the Clerk of the Board of Legislators.”

Your Committee, after careful consideration, recommends the adoption of this act declaring Westchester County’s Strong Opposition to the Reopening of Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant.

Dated: _____, 2025
White Plains, New York

COMMITTEE ON

ACT NO. ____ - 2025

AN ACT declaring Westchester
County's Strong Opposition to the
Reopening of Indian Point Nuclear
Power Plant.

Be it enacted by the Board of Legislators of the County of Westchester, as follows:

Section 1. The Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant in Buchanan, New York and operating since 1962, permanently ceased generating electricity on April 30, 2021, after retiring its last operating nuclear reactor.

§ 2. Pursuant to express language contained in section IV, paragraph C. of the Joint Proposal between the Nuclear Asset Management Company, Holtec Decommissioning International, LLC, Entergy Nuclear Indian Point 2 and 3 LLC, New York State, the County of Westchester, Hendrick Hudson School District, Town of Cortlandt, Village of Buchanan, Riverkeeper, Inc and the Public Utility Law Project, regarding Indian Point decommissioning and site restoration signed on April 14, 2021, " Holtec has no present intention to site a new nuclear reactor at the Site, it agrees it will not propose the siting of new nuclear reactors at the site unless the local governmental entities (Towns, Village, School District), the County and the State agree to support or not oppose such an application."

§ 3. In accordance with the specific parameters of the Joint Proposal, the County of Westchester hereby declares its strong opposition to the siting of new nuclear reactors and the reopening of the Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant.

§ 4. Effective date. This Act shall take effect immediately.