Environmental & Economic Impacts of Indian Point Nuclear Closure

January 9, 2017
Cuomo Administration Permitted CPV Natural Gas Plants to Replace Indian Point

“The 650-megawatt plant in Orange County [CPV Valley Energy Center] is viewed by the Cuomo administration as a key part of its plan to find replacement power for the Indian Point nuclear center, should Gov. Andrew Cuomo succeed in his effort to get it shut down.”

— Politico, May 2, 2015
Former Cuomo Aides Lobbied to Kill Indian Point for CPV Natural Gas

“As early as 2010, [former Gov. Andrew Cuomo aide Todd R.] Howe began to seek [Cuomo aide Joseph] Percoco's assistance in influencing the Former State Operations Director with respect to the [CPV] Power Plant, most specifically by asking Percoco to advise the Former State Operations Director that the Power Plant was supported by labor unions and to advocate for the closing of [Indian Point].”

Fossil Will Rise from 44% to 56% of NY Power if Indian Point Replaced by Nat Gas

Source: US EIA 2017. 2015 Data Not Yet Available. Numbers do not total to 100% due to “Other” Category (not shown). Data and calculations can be found here: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1HHba-Lk8ywSkPcJrxB6Ut8tlV2gkbsyi09O7v7WtaSI/edit?usp=sharing
If Indian Point closes, 23% of New York’s clean electricity will be lost.

Source: EIA
New York Power Sector Carbon Emissions Will Rise 29% if Indian Point is Replaced with Natural Gas
Replacing Indian Point with natural gas would be equivalent to adding ~1.4 million cars to the roads in CO2 emissions.

Source: EPA, US DOT
Replacement of Indian Point with nat gas would increase CO2 twice as much as the reductions required under EPA Clean Power Plan.

Source: US Energy Information Administration, September 2015
Implicit cost of CO2 mitigation from natural gas replacing Indian Point

Assumes U.S. government cost of carbon of $36/ton

Source: EPA, EIA
Nuclear is 31% of New York’s Electricity

Indian Point is 12% of New York’s Electricity

Nuclear is 58% of NY’s Clean Power

Indian Point is 23% of NY’s Clean Power

Environmental & Economic Consequences of Indian Point Closure
New York in-state clean electricity, 2001 - 2014

Source: EIA, NYISO
Indian Point prevented 14,000 deaths

Could wind and solar replace Indian Point?
Indian Point produces 4x more power than NY wind & 236x more than NY solar

Source: EIA
It took over 10 years for wind to rise to 4,000 GWh…

Source: EIA, NYISO
Wind generation increased 1,100 GWh between 2010 and 2014.

Source: EIA, NYISO
Indian Point generates 15x more power than all the wind added between 2010 and 2014.

Source: EIA, NYISO