

**Alliance for Clean Energy New York | American Lung Association in  
New York | Citizens Campaign for the Environment | Citizens'  
Environmental Coalition | Environmental Advocates of New York |  
Harness the Hudson | Hudson River Sloop Clearwater | Morningside  
Heights/West Harlem Sanitation Coalition | National Wildlife  
Federation | NYC Environmental Justice Alliance | New York Interfaith  
Power & Light | New York League of Conservation Voters | New York  
Public Interest Research Group | Renewable Energy Long Island |  
Sierra Club's Beyond Coal Campaign | Vote Solar Initiative**

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October 6, 2011

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo  
Governor of New York State  
Executive Chamber  
State Capitol  
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

The undersigned organizations ask that you continue your support for clean energy by committing to the use of renewable resources and energy efficiency<sup>1</sup> to the greatest extent possible before considering new fossil fuel generation within your call to close the Indian Point nuclear power plant. We strongly believe that adequate clean energy resources do exist to help meet downstate New York's energy needs and that they could be secured at a relatively small premium over that of reliance on conventional fossil fuels, with the long-term costs being equal or favorable.

A commitment to replacing Indian Point with clean energy resources is necessary to avoid jeopardizing achievement of the state's clean energy and environmental goals, including those of the Renewable Portfolio Standard and Energy Efficiency Portfolio Standard, as well as the 80% reduction in carbon emissions by 2050 established in Executive Order 24. The use of clean energy resources to replace Indian Point's power must be in addition to the state's existing commitments, which do not account for the closure of Indian Point.

Shutting down Indian Point would decrease public safety risks and provide protection of the Hudson River and its aquatic life, but replacing it entirely with fossil fuels would

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<sup>1</sup> Technologies eligible for the state's Renewable Portfolio Standard and Energy Efficiency Portfolio Standard programs.

create other public health and environmental concerns. Studies, including one recently conducted by Con Edison, New York City and the NYISO, show that new generation will be needed beyond those projects already under construction or proposed. To secure new generation in a timely manner, the state will need to support long-term contracts for power. We believe NYPA, LIPA and/or Con Edison should conduct a competitive procurement for offshore wind energy to help replace Indian Point.

Additional clean energy resources could be provided through adoption of a serious solar program for New York, as well as exploring transmission upgrades – again, prioritizing those that facilitate use of in-state clean energy resources – to remove the upstate-to-downstate constraints that will impede full development of onshore wind resources, and through additional resources for energy efficiency efforts. However, offshore wind resources are the logical solution to the demand for large-scale clean energy installations in the New York City metropolitan area and could be online and operating by 2020 at the latest, with some certainly online by 2017-18.

Other states on the Atlantic coast are already pursuing offshore wind energy, and other governments also are responding to the imperative of replacing nuclear plants with renewable resources. In response to the recent earthquake in Fukushima, Germany just retired 8 of its 17 nuclear reactors. Germany has stated that it intends to secure replacement resources by 2020 in anticipation of the retirement of the remaining 9 reactors in 2022. Under German law, the country must purchase power from renewable technologies first before it can consider fossil generation as an alternative, even if renewable supplies are costlier.<sup>2</sup>

Similarly, in July, President Sarkozy of France announced that his country would be taking steps to reduce France's dependence on nuclear energy. As part of this effort, France immediately released a RFP for offshore wind that seeks enough power to supply 3.5% percent of the country's total energy needs by 2020, and is expected to spur over \$14B in private sector investment. While 3.5% may not sound like much, for New York, this would be the equivalent of 1,600 MW of offshore wind,<sup>3</sup> 2,400 MW of onshore wind, or 5,000 MW of solar.<sup>4</sup> France's offshore wind solicitation is in addition to its existing renewable energy programs.<sup>5</sup>

A commitment to clean energy resources to replace Indian Point will also provide economic development opportunities and would be one of the most important energy policy actions that New York has undertaken. The choices that are made now will impact New York's air and water quality and public health for decades. Investment in our renewable resources will show leadership on both energy and environmental policy.

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<sup>2</sup> Rosenthal, Elisabeth. "Germany Dims Nuclear Plants, but Hopes to Keep the Lights On." New York Times (August 29, 2011).

<sup>3</sup> The NYISO's 2010 *Growing Wind* report concluded that at least 1,400 MW of offshore wind could be interconnected into southern NY with only minor upgrades to the high voltage system required.

<sup>4</sup> Based on 164,000,000 MWh annual consumption from NYISO's *Power Trends 2011* report. Assumed capacity factors of 40% for offshore wind, capacity factor, 27% for onshore wind, and 13% for solar.

<sup>5</sup> Colchester, Max. "France Seeks to Expand Wind Power." Wall Street Journal (July 11, 2011).

Thank you for your consideration of this critical issue.

Sincerely,

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