

# Putting New Yorkers at Risk

Specter, Herschel M. "PUTTING NEW YORKERS AT RISK." *Micro-Utilities, Inc.*, February 2018.

## Description:

This fact sheet acts as a summary of the eponymous report which explores arguments justifying the shuttering of Indian Point nuclear plant in NY and demonstrates why they arrive at the incorrect conclusion. The full [report](#) may be read/downloaded from the OurEnergyPolicy.org [Resource Library](#).

## Key Points:

1. NY State's goal of an 80% reduction in greenhouse gases (GHG) by 2050 will never be met if we stay on our present path. NY's REV program is far too small and cannot be achieved by renewable energy and conservation alone.
2. NY State lacks a coherent energy plan. It supports renewable electricity and upstate nuclear power to reduce GHG releases while building gas plants for reliability. These efforts largely cancel each other, but at great expense.
3. New York City (NYC) faces serious issues with its electricity supplies. Some 22% of NYC's electricity supply is already well beyond normal retirement age; 41% will be over-aged by 2027.
4. Indian Point provides 25% of NYC's electricity. Shutting down Indian Point would put NYC and the whole State at considerable economic and environmental risk.
5. Indian Point will be replaced by natural gas, wiping out years of environmental gains. Carbon dioxide released from gas plants would remain in the atmosphere for over 1000 years.
6. Over 1600 jobs and over \$38 million dollars/year in tax revenue would be lost. Premature closure could leave radioactive fuel at the Indian Point site for decades.
7. Indian Point is very safe. An accident is highly unlikely.
8. Yet improvements in the emergency plan can be made, limiting planned evacuation to only two miles, with downwind sheltering beyond that.
9. With such a modern emergency plan, zero near term radiological health effects would be expected from an accident. Long term radiological health effects, if any, would be too small to be detectable.
10. Radiation exposure from an accident would be quite limited, comparable to one to two years of the normal radiation we receive from background sources plus medical procedures. The risks from climate change vastly outweigh the risks from Indian Point.
11. **In Summary:** Within New York State itself, the Indian Point nuclear power plants are the only sources of clean electricity within hundreds of miles of New York City (NYC) that simultaneously and safely produce carbon-free electricity, do not release air pollutants, while providing a large, reliable, and dispatchable amount of electricity at a reasonable cost. The Agreement reached by NY State with Entergy and Riverkeeper to shut down Indian Point puts New Yorkers at risk and must be redone.