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**Date:** 3/9/06 9:15AM  
**Subject:** FW: Recent News on Radioactive Leak and Congressional Action

FYI

Riverkeeper encouraging people to attend March 28 meeting

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Riverkeeper website

Recent News on Radioactive Leak and Congressional Action

On March 7, a bi-partisan coalition of New York and Connecticut members of Congress introduced legislation that would require the NRC to do a comprehensive safety assessment of Indian Point and would require the NRC and FEMA to provide detailed information on how they have approved Indian Point's emergency evacuation plans three years running, despite the Witt Report's conclusion that the plans are inadequate to protect the people from an "unacceptable dose of radiation" This important action, led by Congressman Maurice Hinchey who is joined by Congressmen Christopher Shays and Eliot Engel and Congresswomen Nita Lowey and Sue Kelly, comes on the heels of myriad problems at Indian Point involving a radioactive spent fuel pool leak that appears to be releasing tritium and strontium into the Hudson River. The legislation is also supported by New York State Attorney General Eliot Spitzer and Connecticut Attorney General Richard Blumenthal.

On March 2, Riverkeeper released documents showing that the NYS DEC and DOH withheld test sample results for nearly three months that showed strontium-90 in a well 100 feet from the Hudson River.

On March 3, U.S. Representatives submitted a letter to the EPA requesting that they undertake an investigation into Indian Point's "environmental assault" on the Hudson River.

#### NYS Agencies Knew About Strontium in December

3/2/2006 Riverkeeper calls on New York State's Department of Health and the Department of Environmental Conservation to release all groundwater sampling results gathered thus far in their investigation of the leak of radioactive water from Indian Point. According to documents obtained by Riverkeeper under New York State's Freedom of Information Law both State agencies were aware in early December 2005 that Strontium-90, an extremely hazardous radioactive isotope, had been detected in a sample from Monitoring Well-111 nearly three months before the DOH notified elected officials of its presence at the site.

#### What is Strontium-90?

Strontium-90 (Sr-90) is the latest of several radioactive isotopes, including tritium, cobalt, and cesium, to be discovered in groundwater wells or soil samples since a leak from the Indian Point 2 spent fuel pool was discovered in August 2005. Sr-90, one of the most toxic byproducts of nuclear power generation, is produced as a fission byproduct of uranium and plutonium. According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the isotope can enter the food chain when released into the environment.

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Human ingestion of strontium-90 - either by drinking water or eating contaminated food products - is absorbed from the gastrointestinal tract and concentrates in bone mass. Exposure to strontium-90 increases the risk of numerous diseases including bone cancer, leukemia, and soft tissue cancer. According to scholars at Northern Arizona University, "Radioisotopes such as strontium-90, which behaves like calcium, is accumulated by organisms and passed along a food chain!

magnifying with each link in the food chain. Consequently, top carnivores can accumulate very high concentrations of this radioactive isotope, even if only very low concentrations are released to the environment."

#### Congressional Call on EPA to Address IP's Environmental Assault

3/3/2006 In a letter sent to the Environmental Protection Agency on March 3, U.S. Representatives Eliot Engel, Maurice Hinchey, and Nita Lowey called on the federal agency to conduct a full investigation into the strontium and tritium radioactive leak and other environmentally destructive methods employed at Indian Point: "These discoveries are only the latest in a list of environmental assaults on the region by the Indian Point Power Plant. The plant's destructive practices pose a significant threat to the area reservoirs and drinking water, and have killed billions of fish and aquatic life through unsafe cooling techniques each year in the Hudson River."

#### Attend Public Meeting on Spent Fuel Pool Leak - Tentative Date: March 28

In November 2005 Riverkeeper requested that the NRC hold a Town Hall Meeting on the spent fuel pool leak. This type of meeting affords the public the greatest level of participation at agency meetings. In December, the NRC agreed to our request; the meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 28, 2006. We encourage our members to attend the meeting. Please revisit our website or contact Darcy Casteleiro (darcy@riverkeeper.org) to confirm the date, time, and location of the upcoming meeting.

**CC:** "Brian McDermott" <BJM@nrc.gov>, "White John (jrw1@nrc.gov)" <jrw1@nrc.gov>, "Hipschman, Thomas" <thips90@entergy.com>, "Cox, Mark R" <mcox90@entergy.com>

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## **Riverkeeper website**

### **Recent News on Radioactive Leak and Congressional Action**

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### **Congressionals Call on EPA to Address IP's Environmental Assault**

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