

IndianPointEIS - Indian Point

From: "Mahlmeister, William W" <wmahlme@entergy.com>  
To: <IndianPointEIS@nrc.gov>  
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Indian Point Re-Licensing

I am employed by Entergy at Indian Point in the Engineering department. I first started working at Unit 2 in 1980 and with the exception of two years have worked here ever since. I have seen many changes here at the plant over the last 27 years. The improvements are more that anyone could have dreamed of back in 1980. There is always room for improvement but I would like it to be known that I am proud to have been a part of this change.

I consider myself to be an environmentalist and a tree hugger. I always have been I grew up in South Florida in the middle of the woods, with the nearest store 5 miles away. We played in the woods and knew every trail like the back of our hands. In our nationhood was a game warden who nursed injured animals back to health. We spent many hours helping him. I always dreamed of building an underwater city that thrived by farming the ocean floor and fish. Life changed all that, but I still have fond memories and dreams.

I returned to my home town about 5 years ago and found it gone. The trees were all gone. Nothing but concrete and roads for miles.

When I look around here in the Hudson Valley I appreciate the trees, the mountains and the wildlife. Here on site we have Deer, Wild Turkey, Rabbits and Ground Hogs. I find I am not the only one that enjoys watching them and looking forward to the first signs of the new-born in the spring. Eagles overhead and an occasional visit from a hawk or two are also things we watch for. Not to mention Bald Eagles in the Wild. Most Americans have never even see a wild Bald Eagle.

My family and I hike through the trails and Mountains surrounding the plant every year. We have dinner on the river and walk the bridges a few times a year. We watch the side of the road for deer, not just to miss them, but to see them in the fields grazing. Especially when treated to the sight of a speckled fawn playing. Did you know they play here on site. It's safe for them here. Once when I was on night shift a mother and three fawns (yes three) were walking along the path and did not see me until they were barely 10 feet from me. They froze and I pretended not to care and look the other way. After a while they got use to me and started playing while the mother grazed. I had never seen little fawns playing and chasing each other the way they did. Just like little puppies at home. I never knew that.

I wrote all that so that maybe you will understand my position as an Environmentalist and to reinforce the concept that anti-nuclear and environmentalist are not synonymous.

I am very concerned with the environment here in the Hudson Valley. In recent years I am seeing a lot of land clearing and stripping. Just look at the historical Fishkill Ridge area, or at least what's left of it. Entire mountains ground into dust. I fear that if Indian Point is closed the same thing will happen here. The land area required to support economic production in the local community will far exceed the land area currently occupied by the plant.

As a parent I have brought my children here on several occasions. When I have grand children I plan to bring them here. I as a parent would not hesitate for one second to bring those that are not dear to me here on site for any period of time. My youngest son has worked her for a short time and I hope he comes back again. This is a great opportunity for young people. It gets them away from bad influences, random testing helps to keep them straight, and the quality of leadership is outstanding. Safety seminars, human performance talks and the constant peer coaching leads to better citizens. You cant help but take it home with you.

In closing, I would like to say that I believe in the job we are doing here. I would never sacrifice my credibility or the welfare of my family just for a paycheck. I, and many others like me would be the first to know if things were not good here at the plant. We are also not afraid to speak up if there is a problem.

So, as an Environmentalist, as a parent, a stakeholder in the community, and as an employee, I would like to reinforce the position that true environmentalists are not anti-nuclear, they are pro-environment. Please let logic prevail and re-license Indian Point for another 20 years.

William Mahlmeister

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