

UTILITY WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA

Local 1-2, Affiliated with AFL-CIO

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Mr. Andrew Stuyvenberg
Environmental Project Manager
Division of License Renewal, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mail Stop: O-11F1
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Re: Local 1-2's Submission to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Local 1-2; UWUA is the Union that represents most of the workers at Indian Point and is therefore on the front lines of the debate before you today. We are in the best position, to contribute information on the subjects of most relevance to the Commission.

Indian Pt. is a safe facility. If we had any reason to believe it was not, we would not let our members work there. Our members not only can attest to the facility's commitment to safe operation but are an integral part of the team that makes the facility safe. The unparalleled record of plant safety is something we are proud of. Prudent policymaking and planning must avoid leaping to conclusions or being stampeded into rash decisions on the basis of projected and unprecedented catastrophes. One could project any number of possible worst case scenarios - such as a Level 5 hurricane--that would make any evacuation of certain communities in this State unimaginable. Coming up with constructive proposals to meet challenges such as these is one thing. Taking an axe to the ability of a community and a region to function is not the way to meet that challenge, but that is what denying relicensing to this facility will accomplish, and that is all it will accomplish.

As residents of the area and as involved citizens, we are very much concerned with the physical and economic health of the community. Indian Point produces 2000 megawatts of electricity. This represents 20% to 40% of the needs of this region. Cutting off this substantial and vital supply of power would be a body blow to the economic health and personal well-being of every single resident. This amount of electricity could not be replaced. New construction of fossil plants is not feasible in view of prevailing environmental concerns and other time-consuming obstacles to their construction, and green energy sources have not reached the level of viability that allows us to rely on them in the immediate or realistically foreseeable future. Nuclear power is here and it is environmentally clean. Unlike fossil plants, it does not contribute to the greenhouse effect or global warming. It does not release harmful carbon emissions into the atmosphere as fossil plants do. What it does is provide us with inexpensive, safe electric power. We were told in the recent past that with the onset of deregulation and the unleashing of market forces in the power generation industry there would be a glut of low-cost electric capacity for all classes of consumers. Deregulation passed, but the promised results never followed. How could anyone

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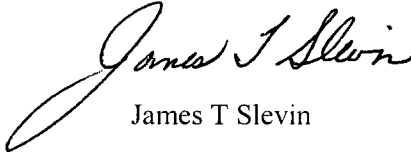
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with the best interests of the community in mind now demand that we eliminate 2000 megawatts of vitally needed power without the remotest practical expectation that it will be replaced in our lifetimes? Even if it could be, the cost would be unimaginable. We refuse to play either the blame game or engage in scare tactics, but let's get realistic. Indian Point has long been a mainstay of this community and region, and those who would not merely tamper with its functioning but would eviscerate it should think long and hard about what they would have you do, because it would be extremely unwise, counterproductive and blatantly destructive to deny relicensure to Indian Point.

This concludes my statement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James T Slevin". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

James T Slevin



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James Slevin
SENIOR BUSINESS AGENT

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