



WILLIAM A. BARCLAY
 Assemblyman 124th District
 Oswego and Onondaga
 Counties

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NRC Environmental Scoping Meeting
 Nine Mile Point Unit 3 Nuclear Power Plant
 Combines License Application
 Submitted Testimony
 From Assemblyman William A. Barclay

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I represent the 124th Assembly District in the New York State Assembly. In this capacity, I have the unique opportunity to represent three of the state's six nuclear generating facilities – Nine Mile Point Units I and II, operated by Constellation Energy and James A. Fitzpatrick, operated by Entergy Nuclear. These plants are important to the Oswego community because both Constellation and Entergy are the biggest private employers in Oswego County. Constellation is the top private employer for the county. They currently employ 900 residents and has an annual payroll of \$96 million. Entergy closely follows and employs 650 residents.

Both companies have strong performance and safety records and are good corporate citizens. In addition to these companies' investment in our community organizations, their employees are our neighbors, community volunteers and many of them are elected officials. Unlike perhaps other areas, you will find that Oswego overwhelmingly supports these facilities because they have maintained a positive relationship with our area. I am pleased that Unistar (a joint venture between Constellation and EDF Group) is considering siting another nuclear generating facility at Nine Mile Point.

While technological advances have paved the way for energy efficiencies, they have also increased the demand for power. Since 1960, the consumption of electricity in New York State has increased by two and a half times. High prices, high demand, a limited supply of electricity and state policies have made New York's electricity prices one of the highest in the nation. With much of the focus on nuclear power, Oswego County is in the unique and fortunate position on capitalizing on this venture. We have the infrastructure, experienced workforce and the local support for this type of project.

As part of the environmental review process, I am aware the NRC will be looking at the environmental impact of siting another nuclear plant in Oswego. This review process will look at the impact on health, water quality, air quality as well as the socioeconomic impact. All of these issues are important in considering this application. As the Assembly representative for the area, I am greatly interested in all of these impacts, including the health, safety and quality of life issues.

Nuclear plants are great economic engines. From a socioeconomic standpoint, a new plant will infuse the area with new capital and much needed jobs, both through construction jobs and permanent positions. It is estimated that the construction of the plant will yield up to 4,000

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construction jobs and 400 permanent jobs. This estimation does not include the number of local spin-off jobs that will accompany a new plant.

New jobs and the anticipated support of area businesses will positively benefit the community and the Central New York region. Like many other areas of the state and the nation, Oswego County is suffering during this economic downturn. A new plant will infuse new jobs, improve our local economy and improve quality of life. A new plant will also give greater exposure to the area and our tourism opportunities. Temporary employment through construction and shutdown workers will bring in a host of new individuals to the area. Often, during their stay, many take advantage of local tourism attractions. In the past, we have seen many of these workers come back to the area to enjoy our vast amenities and tourism attractions. This is good for our local hotels, restaurants and stores.

Another positive impact a new plant will have on our community is that it will also improve our tax base. Currently, Nine Mile Point provides more than \$25 million in revenue to local school districts, the Town of Scriba, Oswego County and the City of Oswego. A new facility will increase our tax base and help alleviate the tax burden on our homeowners. This will help many resident stay in their homes.

It is expected that the global demand for power will double between 2003 and 2030. Locally, electricity demand is dangerously close to exceeding the current supply. Recently the New York Independent System Operator, a nonprofit corporation responsible for operating the state's operating grid, issued a strong recommendation to increase energy production in order to keep up with the current demand the anticipated growth. Already, New York imports power from other states to meet current demand. If we do not address this issue then our energy costs will continue to skyrocket in our region and the state.

Lastly, there are environmental benefits to nuclear power. Nuclear power is proving to be a better alternative to its traditional fossil fuel counterparts and is safe and efficient. Nuclear plants produce electricity without generating greenhouse gases, it's reliable 24/7 and is not dependent on weather or climate.

Because of these reasons, I am strongly in support of a new nuclear plant in Oswego County.