

## **WHY WE MUST CLOSE INDIAN POINT NOW :**

### **Health and Environmental Damage**

Even without a severe accident, studies already implicate Indian Point in current, measurable health and environmental damage in our area, including increased radiation exposure, elevated cancer rates and massive fish kills.

There is no safe level of exposure to the kind of man-made radioactive isotopes the plant continuously emits into the air and water, and which show up in humans and wildlife. Short-term exposure to relatively high levels of radiation from nuclear plants can lead to radiation sickness (nausea, vomiting, hair loss, headaches, diarrhea). But long-term radiation exposure, even to tiny amounts of nuclear plant emissions, leads to increased cancer risk, which is already in evidence in our area. The relative cancer risks from radiation exposure are far higher for women and children than for men.

Strontium-90 is one of the most dangerous radioactive isotopes emitted by Indian Point. It mimics calcium, and is taken up in the bones and teeth, where it continually emits cancer-causing radiation. It has also been repeatedly detected by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation in 30 – 40% of Hudson River fish it sampled. Studies by the Radiation and Public Health Project (RPHP) show that levels of strontium-90 are significantly higher in counties closer to nuclear reactors, and that this coincides with increased thyroid, breast and prostate cancer mortality rates in humans. In the four counties closest to Indian Point (Westchester, Putnam, Rockland and Orange), another RPHP study found elevated rates for 19 out of 20 types of cancer, including thyroid cancer rates 56.1% higher than the national average over the last 15 years.

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... In the event of a severe accident at Indian Point, radiological contamination of drinking water would extend to New York City, since a large portion comes from the Croton and Kensico Reservoirs. Unknown amounts of radioactive isotopes from Indian Point are already leaking into the groundwater and into the Hudson River. To date there has been no evaluation of the impact of this contamination on the proposed desalination plant that would provide 10 million gallons per day of drinking water from the Hudson River to Rockland County residents. Meanwhile, the 2.5 billion gallons a day that Indian Point takes from the River for cooling water and spews back out again kills billions of Hudson River fish, whose populations are already in serious decline.

[Read about RPHP's research on elevated cancer rates near Indian Point](#)

[View an RNN investigative report on thyroid cancer and Indian Point](#)

### **GET INVOLVED!**

Contact Manna Jo Greene Clearwater Environmental Action Director, at [mannajo@clearwater.org](mailto:mannajo@clearwater.org) , 845 265-8080, ext 7113 to find out about volunteer opportunities for the Indian Point Campaign.