

Indian Point: What's Next?

An Environmental Justice Community Discussion

Wednesday, May 26, 2021 6:00 -- 7:30 p.m.

Meeting Agenda

Moderator: Lisa Smart, Clearwater Environmental Action Intern

Welcome: Colin Smith, Westchester County Legislator

Ensuring Environmental and Climate Justice: Aaron Mair, a founder of the Environmental Justice Movement and Gregory Simpson, Hudson Valley Environmental Justice Coalition

Indian Point Background Information: Catherine Borgia, Westchester County Legislator

Decommissioning Overview: Manna Jo Greene, Clearwater Environmental Director

- Distinguishing Plant Closure from Decommissioning
- Dangers of Decommissioning
- License Transfer from to Holtec; the Joint Proposal; PDSAR
- Just Transition for workers
- Other options



Decommissioning Oversight Board: Matt Salton, Clearwater Environmental Action Associate

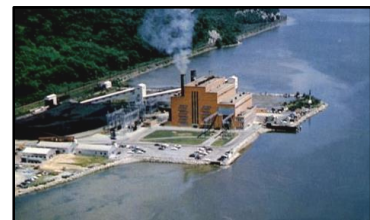
- The need for a Decommissioning Oversight Board (DOB) and update on current status

Transitioning to a Renewable Energy Economy: Paul Gallay, Executive Director, Riverkeeper

- Where is replacement energy coming from?
- NY Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) Climate Goals
- Transitioning to a Renewable Energy Economy with storage and efficiency

Comments on Indian Point closing and related issues in EJ/CJ Communities:

- Peekskill — Vanessa Agudelo, Council person
- Newburgh — Karen Meija, Council person
- Haverstraw/Nyack — Harriet Cornell, Rockland County Legislator
- Beacon — Amber Grant, Council person
- New York City — Taylor Morton, WE ACT for Environmental Justice



Breakout rooms by location (15 minutes): By paired communities

Breakout Room #1: NYC and Yonkers

Breakout Room #4: Beacon and Newburgh

Breakout Room #2: Nyack and Haverstraw

Breakout Room #5 Kingston, Poughkeepsie and all other

Breakout Room #3: Peekskill and Ossining

Main Room: Matt for help

Report back and Next Steps; Q&A (15 minutes): Lisa, Matt and Manna

Action Items

- Call to convene the DOB asap; review Post-Shutdown Decommissioning Plan
- Summer meetings with paired communities to look at Indian Point closure and local and regional Decommissioning and Environmental and Climate Justice issues
- Fall Summit to share findings and recommendations

Pre-registration is required: [Click here to register](#)

For further information: Manna Jo Greene, mannajo@clearwater.org 845-807-1270;

Matt Salton, matt@clearwater.org 914-844-9821 or Lisa Smart, lsmart@vassar.edu 516-273-1164

Presenters' Biographies

Thank you for giving your time and expertise to the Indian Point EJ Nuclear Decommissioning Forum.



Lisa Smart currently serves as the Clearwater Environmental Action intern. She is a rising senior at Vassar College majoring in Anthropology with minors in Sustainability and French. On campus, Lisa is heavily involved in environmental justice and sustainability initiatives. She is president of the Vassar Greens, a member of the Environmental Action Committee, a sustainability representative for the Campus Dining Committee, and an intern for the Office of Sustainability.



Westchester County Legislator Colin Smith is a lifelong Westchester County resident, born and raised in Peekskill. Elected to the Board of Legislators in 2019 he is proud to be representing District 1, which includes Cortland, Peekskill, and Yorktown. Prior to becoming a County Legislator, he was elected to the Peekskill City School Board in 2012, and to the Peekskill Common Council in 2017. A member of the New York State Bar Association, Colin practices law in New York state and federal courts, as well as in the state of Connecticut.



Aaron Mair of Schenectady, NY, was an epidemiological-spatial analyst with the New York State Department of Health, and President of the Sierra Club’s Board of Directors. A founder of the Environmental Justice Movement, Mair’s experience includes more than three decades of environmental activism and over 25 years as a Sierra Club volunteer leader, where he has worked diligently for environmental justice. In 1995, Mair founded the Arbor Hill Environmental Justice Corporation, which was a member of the White House [Council on Environmental Quality](#) from 1998 to 2000. Mair was also a member of Friends of Clean Hudson.



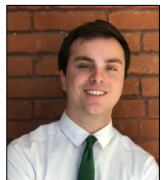
Rev. Dr. Gregory Simpson holds a Ph.D. in organic chemistry, is an educator, theologian, and a scientist specializing in fundraising and activism. Pastor of Naurashaun Presbyterian Church in Pearl River, he serves on the boards of Clearwater, TransArt Inc., the Center for Earth Ethics, and is co-founder of the Hudson Valley Environmental Justice Coalition. He co-founded Learning for Life Solutions to encourage success by students of color in STEM and pre-med programs. His research focuses on the intersection between climate change as a social justice issue and the Judeo-Christian ethics that drive fossil fuel extraction or renewable energy.



Westchester County Legislator Catherine Borgia represents District 9 in the Town of Cortlandt, the City of Peekskill, Croton-on-Hudson, Ossining, and Briarcliff. She chairs the Budget & Appropriations Committee, serves on four other committees and was Majority Leader from 2014-17. Catherine has attended NRC meetings since 2002, as Chief of Staff to NYS Assemblywoman Sandy Galef. She closely followed issues relating to Indian Point as a County Legislator, and previously as Ossining Supervisor and Village Trustee. A long-time volunteer, she co-founded the Ossining Microfund, and serves on many community organizations.



Manna Jo Greene has been Hudson River Sloop Clearwater’s Environmental Director since 2000. Formerly the Recycling Coordinator for the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency for 10 years and a registered Critical Care Nurse for 22. A lifelong environmental professional and community activist, she avidly supports collaborative land use planning and problem solving. She serves as Ulster County Legislator from District 19, the Towns of Rosendale and Marbletown, and chairs the Energy & Environment and Climate Smart Committees.



Matt Salton, Clearwater’s Environmental Action Associate, was born and raised in the Hudson Valley. He grew up caring about the environment and became an Eagle Scout. He’s a graduate of Gettysburg College with a B.A. in Environmental Studies and Political Science. Prior to his work at Clearwater, he was a political organizer and worked on many electoral campaigns in Pennsylvania and the Hudson Valley to get environmental champions elected to office.



Paul Gallay has worked to protect the Hudson River and its tributaries and safeguard drinking water supplies for over ten million New Yorkers. An attorney and educator, Paul has dedicated himself to the environmental movement since 1987, when he worked for the NYS Attorney General, and in 1990 for the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation for ten years, where he brought hundreds of corporate and government polluters to justice. He then spent a decade in land conservation, where he helped protect thousands of acres of open space, before becoming Riverkeeper’s President in 2010. He also teaches at the Earth Institute at Columbia University.



Peekskill City Councilperson Vanessa Agudelo is passionate about empowering people to foster systemic change from the bottom up. After graduating from Penn State, she moved back to Peekskill to address the issues facing her home community. She joined the fight against the Spectra natural gas pipeline expansion and was appointed to the city’s Conservation Advisory Council. In 2017, Vanessa’s environmental advocacy and commitment to justice led to her to become the youngest person to ever be elected in the City of Peekskill at 25 years old. Vanessa also is the New York Immigration Coalition’s Hudson Valley Member Engagement Manager.



Newburgh City Councilperson Karen Meija has over 25 years of professional experience working with public/private partnerships including non-profit organizations and community organizing. As a councilperson in the City of Newburgh, she worked with her colleagues to address the foreclosure and rental crisis in her community. She is currently an assistant director with 1199SEIU Training & Employment Funds and manages collaborative work in the Hudson Valley, Westchester and the Bronx. Karen is a founding member of Local Progress NY and serves on other local boards in her community.



Rockland County Legislator Harriet Cornell has served since 1984. One of her first initiatives was to create a Citizens’ Commission to close Indian Point, which she chaired for many years. She is the only woman ever to serve as Legislative Chair and the only person to serve in that position for nine consecutive years. Her legislative and community accomplishments include environmental protection, improved health services for women and children, upgrading Rockland’s transportation infrastructure, and smart land use planning.



Beacon City Councilperson Amber Grant is serving her second term as an At-Large Member, where she focuses on sustainability and combating climate change. She advocated for hiring a Climate Smart Communities (CSC) Coordinator, and Beacon has achieved Silver status as a CSC. She serves as a liaison to the Conservation Advisory Committee (CAC), the Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) and upcoming Open Space Index (OSI) projects. In 2020, she launched the Sustainable Beacon Initiative, and was an early and outspoken opponent of the proposed Danskammer expansion, encouraging Beacon to to pass a resolution objecting that proposal.



Jeanne Bergman is the Director of Programs at WE ACT for Environmental Justice in New York City, a trainer for Arm in Arm for Climate, and a climate and anti-fossil fuel activist with Sane Energy Project. She worked on HIV/AIDS advocacy and policy in New York for two decades before focusing on fighting to end the climate crisis, centering on racial and economic justice. She has degrees in cultural anthropology and sustainability management, two teenagers, many arrests for civil disobedience. She lives in Manhattan.