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Business & Labor Leaders: Indian Point is Essential for New York's Economic Recovery, Jobs, and Grid Reliability

New York, NY/January 12, 2012 – In conjunction with a public hearing being held today in Lower Manhattan by the New York Assembly Committee on Energy and the Committee on Corporations, Authorities, and Commissions, a group of New York businesses and labor leaders strongly urged policy makers to support the continued operation of Indian Point, citing its fundamental role in the state's economy and electric grid.

“While New York has made important energy strides in recent years, Indian Point remains essential to New York, especially the City and downstate region, where it provides up to 30 percent of the electricity on a typical day,” said Jerry Kremer, chairman of the New York Affordable Reliable Electricity Alliance (New York AREA) and a former chairman of the New York Assembly Ways and Means Committee.

“Due to such factors as growing future demand, the rise in the use of electric cars, the retirement of many aging fossil fuel facilities, and the challenges faced by downstate New York to improve its air quality, Indian Point will be more crucial to the region's economy in five years than it is today,” said Mr. Kremer.

Below are comments from members of New York AREA about Indian Point in light of today's Assembly hearing:

Mario Cilento, President of the New York State AFL-CIO

"New York's number one priority is creating and retaining good jobs. Closing Indian Point would have the exact opposite effect. Obviously, the workers at the facility would be impacted, but more than that, the closure would be a blow to our economy as a whole. We need more, not less, clean and low-cost power, like that which is generated at Indian Point, to enable New York's residents and businesses to thrive in the face of ever-increasing competition."

Gavin Donohue, President and CEO of the Independent Power Producers of New York

“The continued operation of Indian Point is vital to the reliability of our state's electric system, as well as to the region's economy. Indian Point provides 2,000 MW of electricity, more than 1,000 jobs, and pays more than \$75 million dollars in taxes. New York should not make the decision to forgo a safe, secure, and vital source of energy that provides economic stability, a

reliable power supply, and helps the state achieve its environmental goals. In his State of the State address last week, Governor Cuomo recognized the importance of energy and infrastructure as key to maintaining and growing our economy. The continued operation of Indian Point helps to maintain a positive climate for new investment and reinforces New York's commitment to creating jobs and opportunity here in the Empire State.”

John Ravitz, Executive Vice President & COO of the Business Council of Westchester

“New York needs to send out consistent and clear signals that we are open for business so that we attract the investments necessary to revitalize our economy. Shutting down Westchester-based Indian Point would eliminate 11 percent of the state’s electricity and say to investors and businesses, especially in energy-intensive industries like manufacturing, that New York is not business-friendly.”

Note: Mr. Ravitz is also a former member of the New York Assembly

Ed Malloy, President of the New York State & New York City Building & Construction Trades Council

“The New York State Building & Construction Trades Council, representing more than 200,000 unionized construction workers, supports the relicensing of Indian Point. Producing clean, green energy at Indian Point over the next twenty years will require more than 44 million man-hours of work for building trades members who will earn more than \$1.8 billion. Failure to relicense could result in the need to import power from other states or Canada, effectively eliminating certain jobs, reducing New York’s tax base, and adding additional strain to our already struggling economy. Relicensing is the only option that makes sense.”

Dr. Matthew Cordaro (His distinguished background includes serving as the President of the Midwest ISO, a regional transmission organization serving nine states)

"It is hard to deny Indian Point’s vital contribution to New York’s grid reliability. The New York Independent System Operator has made this clear on numerous occasions. In New York City, where the transmission challenges are as intricate and overwhelming as anywhere in the world, the loss of Indian Point’s power would create serious problems.”

Tom Klein, Business Manager of Boilermakers Local 5

“Our members, many of whom work at the plant, know Indian Point is a safe and modern facility that continually undergoes rigorous scrutiny and deservedly earns high grades from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. If we had any doubt about the plant’s safety, our members would not work there or, as many of them do, live in close proximity to the plant with their families.”

Norris McDonald, President of the African American Environmentalist Association

“The Charles River Associates study found that New York would become a dirtier and less healthy place to live without Indian Point. The firm said, ‘Our analysis indicates that both the City and State would see approximately a 15 percent increase in carbon emissions under most conventional replacement scenarios, with roughly 7-8% in NOx [nitrous oxide] emissions.’ The NOx findings are very disturbing, as NOx is linked to a number of adverse effects on the respiratory system which impact children and the elderly in particular.”

Michael Cavanaugh, Business Manager, Millwright and Machinery Erectors Local 740

“New York needs the thousands of jobs that come directly from Indian Point, and as a result of Indian Point’s operation. Now is not the time to enact policies which eliminate jobs in New York! In fact, an independent study a few years ago found that Indian Point generates nearly \$1 billion in annual economic activity for New York. In these tough times, unnecessary and higher energy costs would amount to a politically-imposed tax on the hard working people of this state who are already struggling to get by.”

Lenny Caro, President & CEO of the Bronx Chamber of Commerce

“The Bronx’ many small to mid-sized and entrepreneurial businesses need ample, affordable power to not only survive, but create new jobs. New York must not stifle that opportunity by adding new layers of costs or other hurdles in the pathway to economic recovery. The Charles River study, commissioned by the Bloomberg Administration, shows that the economic and environmental health of our city is dependent on safe, economic, and clean sources of energy. Upgrading our energy infrastructure, while keeping facilities like Indian Point, makes sense both environmentally and economically.”

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About New York AREA: Founded in November 2003, the New York Affordable Reliable Electricity Alliance (New York AREA) is a diverse group of more than 150 business, labor, and community groups whose mission and purpose is to ensure that New York has an ample and reliable electricity supply, and economic prosperity for years to come. New York AREA helps to educate policy makers, businesses, and the general public regarding the necessity and importance of safe, low-cost and reliable electricity. Entergy, the operator of Indian Point, is a member of New York AREA. For additional information visit: www.area-alliance.org.