

## New York in Need of Jobs and Energy

By Jerry Connolly



With our economy mired in a prolonged economic recession, it is imperative to get our people back to work. Rebuilding our aging energy infrastructure is the smart way to create jobs and get our economy back on track.

While President Obama deserves great credit for implementing a federal package to facilitate this development, we need the President's success to be replicated at the state level. Encouraging energy efficiencies and supporting alternative energy resources within our state is a must in any credible effort.

However, New York's baseload energy supply (24/7, dependable power generation) must be fortified due to rising energy demand. Reauthorizing the Article X power plant siting law, relicensing the Indian Point Energy Center, and fast tracking the licensing for a new reactor at Nine Mile Point outside Oswego will stabilize future energy demand, create new jobs, and facilitate further investment in our state.

According to the New York State Department of Labor, state unemployment is at seven percent as of December, 2008- the highest level since 1994, and the State Comptroller's office predicts another 225,000 statewide job losses over the next two years. New York State faces even more of a problem unless it is able to increase not only clean baseload electricity generation, but also its transmission capacity.

A recent report from the New York Independent System Operator (NYISO) found that while the state's electricity reliability is improving, losing even one of the two Indian Point units would result in an "immediate violation of reliability standards." In fact, without both units, the potential for power disruptions would be as much as 40 times the acceptable national reliability standards. Given that on a typical day Indian Point provides up to 30 percent of the power used in New York City, and 75 percent of the power for the Lower Hudson Valley, it is critical to keep Indian Point online.

Our state is starving for jobs and energy, and any more delays could prove drastic to the state's already staggering economy.

*Jerry Connolly is a board member of the Coalition of Labor for Energy and Jobs and is the retired business manager and secretary-treasurer of the Boilermakers-New York. Coalition members include: Local 91 of the International Association of Heat & Frost Insulators & Allied Workers, the Millwright & Machinery Erectors Local 740 the Boilermakers Local 5, Utility Workers Local 1-2, and the Metallic Lathers Local 46.*

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