

## **Business alliance protests state DEC decision on Indian Point's water use**

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A group of business and labor officials is warning that the New York Department of Environmental Conservation's decision to make Indian Point change the way it uses Hudson River water to cool its nuclear operations "will drive businesses out of New York, cost jobs across the state, and raise (electric) rates."

In a letter this week sent to DEC Commissioner Pete Grannis, 14 leaders warned of the impacts from the cost of this proposal, estimated at \$8.5 billion.

Included in the group are state and county business councils; the Hudson Valley Economic Development Corporation; insulator, millwright and building unions as well as the Westchester and Rockland business associations.

The officials said the decision, which Indian Point owner Entergy Nuclear is appealing, would effectively require large cooling towers to be built at the Buchanan nuclear plant.

The letter also cautions that the proposal could "jeopardize the reliability of New York's electricity grid" and asks the DEC to be mindful of a 2009 U.S. Supreme Court decision that found that cost-benefit analysis can be used when determining environmental regulatory policy.

The business and labor leaders also ask for an independent study to pinpoint the number of jobs that will be lost and the additional costs in the form of higher electricity.

The organizations included are members of the New York Affordable Reliable Electricity Alliance.