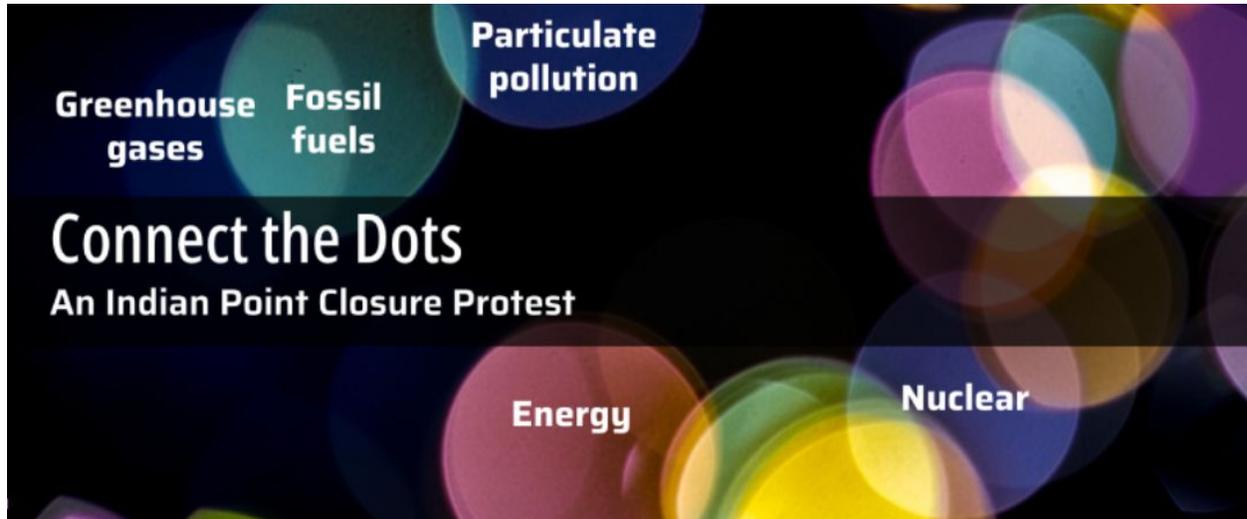


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**Activists and scientists from around the world hold socially distant protests of Indian Point Closure** on April 30th, 2020 2:00-5:00 PM ET

BUCHANAN, NY - With the scheduled closure of Indian Point Energy Center, downstate New York is slated to lose 80% of its carbon-free electricity generation over the next year. Nearly an equivalent amount of fossil fuel generation is prepared to ramp up. This transition back to fossil fuels will harm human health, local economies, and move New York backward on meeting its climate goals. The outcry of opposition to this energy shift is real and widespread, with over 8,000 people signing a [petition](#) and [open letter](#) to Governor Cuomo to halt the closure, citing the current pandemic as the absolute worst time to close down a zero-emission energy source and employer of 1000 people.

In protest of the closure, a coalition of environmental organizations will put on “Connect the Dots”, a live streamed protest event featuring multiple (socially distant) protests in downstate New York, connecting the dots between the closure of Indian Point to the increased usage of fracked gas at several gas plants and its impact on lower income communities. Analysis, commentary, and entertainment will be provided by scientists, activists, and musicians. The event will be live streamed on Facebook, Youtube, and Twitter and can be found at <http://facebook.com/generationatomic/live>

The on-the-ground protests will be held at three NY natural gas plants which will be making up the lost energy production from Indian Point: Cricket Valley Energy Center in Dover Plains, Ravenswood Generating Station in Long Island City, and CPV Valley Energy in Middletown. Protesters must follow all NY State social distancing guidelines, and must wear masks and any other protective equipment that is available. Waterproof signs and rain-friendly clothing are encouraged.

**Hosted by:**

[GenerationAtomic.org](http://GenerationAtomic.org)  
[Protect Orange County](http://ProtectOrangeCounty.org)  
[NuclearNY.org](http://NuclearNY.org)  
[Footprints to Wings](http://Footprints to Wings.org)  
[Stop Cricket Valley](http://StopCricketValley.org)  
[ClimateCoalition.org](http://ClimateCoalition.org)

**Confirmed Guests:**

Robert Stone (Filmmaker, Pandora's Promise)  
Dr. Pushker Kharecha (Climate Scientist, Columbia University)  
Iida Ruishalme (Mothers for Nuclear, Thoughtscapism)  
Jim Hopf (Climate Advocate, Citizens Climate Lobby, Retired Nuclear Engineer, Energy Solutions)  
Meredith Angwin (Chemist, Yes VY Yankee)  
Amardeo Sarma (Electrical Engineer, GWUP - German Skeptics)  
Baba Brinkman (Peer Reviewed Rap Artist)  
Mayor Theresa Knickerbocker (Mayor of Buchanan)

**Expert testimonials:**

Dr. Rita Baranwal, Office of Nuclear Energy, U.S. Department of Energy  
Apr 27, 2020

"It pains me to see Indian Point Unit 2 prematurely shutting down this Thursday. The two units at the plant currently provide 25% of New York City's power and support more than 1,000 jobs that will all be lost by this time next year when Unit 3 also closes."

Dr. James Hansen, Climate Scientist, Earth Institute, Columbia University, Director of the Climate Science, Awareness and Solutions group.  
April 06, 2016

"The last few weeks have seen an orchestrated campaign to mislead the people of New York about the essential safety and importance of Indian Point nuclear plant to address climate change... For the sake of future generations who could be harmed by irreversible climate change, I urge New Yorkers to reject this fear mongering and uphold science against ideology."

**Testimonials from citizens:**

Michelle Lewis - Buchanan, NY  
2020-04-18

"Start listening to the THOUSANDS of homeowners from the VERY AREA where the power plant is located who don't have a problem with depending on this energy source! You don't have the right to speak on our behalf from your golden palace in the city... wake up and do the right thing."

Deborah Conkling - Peekskill, NY  
2020-04-22

"I live 1 mile from Indian point. We need it open to supply energy and keep jobs open"

Lynn Burbank - West Pittston, PA

2020-04-22

"My husband worked at this plant and always spoke of how many safety protocols are in place. He assured me that I should have no concerns about him working there. Please keep these jobs."

Michael Mckeon - New Hyde Park, NY

2020-04-22

"We need clean reliable power and that is nuclear. Whether the sun is shining, the wind is blowing or the water is flowing."

Debbie Cooper - Peekskill, NY

2020-04-20

"They have come up with no better options than, 'Let's close the plant with no alternatives and not a worry at all about the Local towns who have to pick up the slack.'"

### **Testimonials from unions:**

James Slevin, Utility Workers Union of America, AFL-CIO national president

"UWUA has been critical of the process that led to Entergy shutting down and selling Indian Point.

The impact of closing Indian Point in 2021 will extend far beyond the Members of Local 1-2 who work at the facility. It will blow an irreparable hole in the fragile economy of the Village of Buchanan, which relied heavily on revenue from Entergy. That effect will ripple to the local school district which is losing up to \$50 million when Indian Point is closed. The knock-on effect to the economy of Westchester County itself will have an impact on every county resident, probably in the form of higher taxes, which are already viewed as burdensome. Local contractors who service Indian Point and the localities effected will suffer from lost revenue. Given the small nature of companies that supply and contract with Entergy, it will be no surprise if some business close for good.

The most cynical aspect of the Indian Point deal with New York State is that the State decried nuclear energy in Westchester as unsafe, while subsidizing upstate nuclear facilities with \$1 billion. Entergy has clearly stated that it is exiting the nuclear business and the Northeast in general and New York State is providing a grand send-off.

All of these actions were taken while New York State has no resources ready to replace the lost clean energy generated by Indian Point. Indian Point can provide nearly 30% of New York City's and Westchester County's energy demands when necessary.

The lack of any plan by New York State to replace the energy generation lost at Indian Point is especially troubling given the State's Renewed Energy Vision (REV) policy to switch the entire state to clean, renewable energy by 2040. Currently, with Indian Point's demise less than two years away,

New York State looks to be caught flat-footed and will be forced to turn to gas and coal power generation to meet demand.

Entergy has announced that it will sell Indian Point to a decommissioning company-as it did for two New England properties- in 2021 but has not disclosed the buyer, or who will be employed during the lengthy process. Local 1-2 Members are the best trained to fulfill this mission and we are working to see that we have a hand in the process.

Indian Point generates clean, safe energy. Generations of fear-mongering by anti-nuclear voices finally prevailed. This leaves a very grim outlook for the future of the economy and clean energy sources in New York State for decades to come."

**###**