



RICHARD L. BRODSKY  
Assemblyman 86th District

THE ASSEMBLY  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY

50-247

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April 7, 1983  
BRANCH

As was agreed at Mr. Seasonwein's last appearance, enclosed please find a complete copy of his survey results.

Sincerely,

*Richard L. Brodsky*  
eds

Richard L. Brodsky

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BEFORE THE ATOMIC SAFETY AND LICENSING BOARD

Docket Nos. 50-247 SP  
50-286 SP

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AWARENESS OF INDIAN POINT

	<u>Inside 10 Mile Zone</u>	<u>Rest of Westchester</u>
<u>Heard of site</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>89</u>
Awareness of nuclear plants	99	92
Aided	86	79
Unaided	13	13

NUMBER OF NUCLEAR PLANTS AT INDIAN POINT

	<u>Inside 10 Mile Zone</u>	<u>Rest of Westchester</u>
One	6	24
Two	23	14
More than two	31	14
None	4	0
Don't know	36	48

WHETHER THE NUCLEAR PLANTS AT INDIAN POINT SHOULD BE KEPT OPERATING

	<u>Inside 10 Mile Zone</u>	<u>Rest of Westchester</u>
<u>Initial attitudes before arguments given on both sides:</u>		
Keep operating	44	50
Should shut down	45	34
Don't know	11	16

Attitudes after arguments given on  
both sides:

Keep operating	46.5	53
Should shut down	46.5	39
Don't know	7	8



IF INDIAN POINT WERE SHUT DOWN WOULD THE ELECTRICITY RATES IN WESTCHESTER INCREASE AND IF SO, BY WHAT PERCENTAGE

	<u>Inside 10 Mile Zone</u>	<u>Rest of Westchester</u>
<u>Would increase</u>	<u>77</u>	<u>65</u>
<u>Would increase by:</u>		
10%	19	17
20%	27	26
30%	11	5
40%	2	2
50%	1	2
More than 50%	2	3
Don't know	16	10

ARE THE NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS AT INDIAN POINT BASICALLY SAFE OR UNSAFE

	<u>Inside 10 Mile Zone</u>	<u>Rest of Worcester</u>
Safe	45	45
Unsafe	47	41
Mixed emotions	1	--
Don't know	7	14

HOW LIKELY IS THAT RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS COULD BE RELEASED FROM THE PLANTS  
AT INDIAN POINT AND HOW SERIOUS A HEALTH HAZARD WOULD THAT BE

	<u>Inside 10 Mile Zone</u>	<u>Rest of Westchester</u>
<u>Very likely</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>21</u>
<u>Somewhat likely</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>29</u>

Feel emission likely and the health hazard (in general) would be:

Serious	41	28
Somewhat serious	10	13
Not serious	5	2
Don't know	0	7

Feel emission likely and the health hazard (personally) would be:

Serious	42	24
Somewhat serious	10	19
Not serious	5	5
Don't know	0	2

THE MOST SERIOUS ACCIDENT THAT COULD HAPPEN WITH ANY NUCLEAR PLANT

	<u>Inside 10 Mile Zone</u>	<u>Rest of Westchester</u>
Could explode	18	16
Meltdown	69	62
Don't know	13	22

HAS A NUCLEAR PLANT EVER EXPLODED IN THIS COUNTRY ELSEWHERE

	<u>Inside 10 Mile Zone</u>	<u>Rest of Westchester</u>
Yes	1	5
No	13	11
Don't know	86	84

ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR OF OPENING THE NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS AT INDIAN POINT

<u>Rest of Westchester</u>		
<u>Strong</u>	<u>Weak</u>	<u>Don't</u>
<u>Argument</u>	<u>Argument</u>	<u>Know</u>

Nuclear energy has been providing electricity to residents of New York State from the Indian Point site since 1962, when one of the nation's first nuclear electric plants began operating. The two plants currently operating at Indian Point provide a significant amount of the power needed by New Yorkers for jobs, for schools and most of the power for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority's commuter railroads and subways and for some 75 government agencies, including the street lighting, public housing, water filtration and other electrical needs of counties, villages and school systems.

49                      38                      13

By using nuclear energy as its fuel, Indian Point makes unnecessary the burning of some 20 million barrels of imported oil each year. By substituting nuclear energy for imported oil, the two plants save consumers half a billion dollars a year in electric rates.

30                      46                      24

ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR OF OPENING THE NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS AT INDIAN POINT

<u>Rest of Westchester</u>		
<u>Strong</u>	<u>Weak</u>	<u>Don't</u>
<u>Argument</u>	<u>Argument</u>	<u>Know</u>
<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>

In nearly 20 years, the operation of the Indian Point plants has never caused an injury to a member of the public. Mechanical malfunctions have interrupted operations at times, and occasionally have caused small releases of radiation inside the containment building but have never led to a significant release beyond the plant boundry.

39                      46                      15

From the beginning scientists and engineers have recognized the potential hazard of nuclear plants-the accidental release of radioactive materials-and designed the plants to prevent a large release from happening.

44                      41                      15

If the plants at Indian Point are closed the electricity rates in Westchester will go up at least 10% and perhaps as much as 20%.

46                      39                      15

ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR OF OPENING THE NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS AT INDIAN POINT

Inside  
10 Mile Zone

<u>Strong</u>	<u>Weak</u>	<u>Don't</u>
<u>Argument</u>	<u>Argument</u>	<u>Know</u>
%	%	%

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49	44	8
----	----	---

By using nuclear energy as its fuel, Indian Point makes unnecessary the burning of some 20 million barrels of imported oil each year. By substituting nuclear energy for imported oil, the two plants save consumers half a billion dollars a year in electric rates.

33	54	14
----	----	----



ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR OF OPENING THE NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS AT INDIAN POINTInside  
10 Mile Zone

<u>Strong</u> <u>Argument</u>	<u>Weak</u> <u>Argument</u>	<u>Don't</u> <u>Know</u>
%	%	%

In nearly 20 years, the operation of the Indian Point plants has never caused an injury to a member of the public. Mechanical malfunctions have interrupted operations at times, and occasionally have caused small releases of radiation inside the containment building, but have never led to a significant release beyond the plant boundry.

47	49	5
----	----	---

From the beginning scientists and engineers have recognized the potential hazard of nuclear plants-the accidental release of radioactive materials-and designed the plants to prevent a large release from happening.

39	57	5
----	----	---

If the plants at Indian Point are closed the electricity rates in Westchester will go up at least 10% and perhaps as much as 20%.

41	56	4
----	----	---

ARGUMENTS OPPOSING THE OPENING OF THE NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS AT INDIAN POINT

<u>Rest of Westchester</u>		
<u>Strong</u>	<u>Weak</u>	<u>Don't</u>
<u>Argument</u>	<u>Argument</u>	<u>Know</u>
1	1	1

It is possible that Indian Point may have been needed in 1962 when the first nuclear plant began running there but the two nuclear plants are increasingly unneeded now. In large part this is because the amount of electricity used by the average Westchester residents has gone down a lot and continues to decline. Talk that the Indian Point plants are needed to provide electricity that protects jobs is just a scare tactic.

24                  62                  14

Indian Point does almost nothing to reduce the use of foreign oil in this area. While those who favor the plants talk about saving 20 million barrels of oil a year by having these atomic plants, they don't mention that this amount of oil is not even 10% of the foreign oil used around here.

20                  64                  16

The operators of Indian Point claim that no one has been injured by it in 20 years. This probably means that our luck is about to run out since there have been many times when each of the two plants there have had something wrong and one of the plants was just shut down recently because it was said to be unsafe.

37                  54                  9

ARGUMENTS OPPOSING THE OPENING OF THE NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS AT INDIAN POINTRest of  
Westchester

<u>Strong</u>	<u>Weak</u>	<u>Don't</u>
<u>Argument</u>	<u>Argument</u>	<u>Know</u>
61	30	9
63	30	7

Scientists still have not solved the problem of how to safely store, on a long-term basis, the radioactive wastes produced by nuclear power plants and the related problem of where to safely dispose of these nuclear wastes. Westchester has accumulated a stockpile of this nuclear waste because there is no adequate plan for its disposal.

Indian Point is located in the most populated area of any nuclear power plant in the country. If an evacuation were necessary for the area surrounding the Indian Point Plant, such an evacuation would be impossible in the light of the numbers of people to be moved, the existing road network and the lack of protective equipment.

ARGUMENTS OPPOSING THE OPENING OF THE NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS AT INDIAN POINT

Inside 10 Mile Zone		
Strong Argument	Weak Argument	Don't Know
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

It is possible that Indian Point may have been needed in 1962 when the first nuclear plant began running there but the two nuclear plants are increasingly unneeded now. In large part this is because the amount of electricity used by the average Westchester residents has gone down a lot and continues to decline. Talk that the Indian Point plants are needed to provide electricity that protects jobs is just a scare tactic.

21                  67                  13

Indian Point does almost nothing to reduce the use of foreign oil in this area. While those who favor the plants talk about saving 20 million barrels of oil a year by having these atomic plants, they don't mention that this amount of oil is not even 10% of the foreign oil used around here.

31                  51                  19

The operators of Indian Point claim that no one has been injured by it in 20 years. This probably means that our luck is about to run out since there have been many times when each of the two plants there have had something wrong and one of the plants was just shut down recently because it was said to be unsafe....

40                  56                  5

ARGUMENTS OPPOSING THE OPENING OF THE NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS AT INDIAN POINT

Inside 10 Mile Zone		
Strong Argument	Weak Argument	Don't Know

Scientists still have not solved the problem of how to safely store, on a long-term basis, the radioactive wastes produced by nuclear power plants and the related problem of where to safely dispose of these nuclear wastes. Westchester has accumulated a stockpile of this nuclear waste because there is no adequate plan for its disposal.

53                      39                      9

Indian Point is located in the most populated area of any nuclear power plant in the country. If an evacuation were necessary for the area surrounding the Indian Point Plant, such an evacuation would be impossible in the light of the numbers of people to be moved, the existing road network and the lack of protective equipment.

63                      30                      8

WHETHER THE PLANTS AT INDIAN POINT HELP HOLD DOWN REAL ESTATE TAXES

	<u>Inside 10 Mile Zone</u>	<u>Rest of Westchester</u>
Great deal	4	4
Somewhat	17	10
Not too much	20	22
Not at all	46	47
Don't know	13	17

WHETHER RECEIVED BOOKLET ON INDIAN POINT AND RELATED QUESTIONS

Inside  
10 Mile Zone

Received booklet	<u>47</u>
Read or glanced at it	45
Still have it	31
Know where it is	20

HOW MUCH OF THE BOOKLET WAS READInside  
10 Mile Zone

All	48
Most	13
About half	15
Less than half	22
None	2



AWARE THAT HIGH-PITCHED SIREN SOUND MEANS THAT RADIATION HAS BEEN RELEASED  
AND A EMERGENCY HAS OCCURRED AND WHAT SHOULD BE DONE

Inside  
10 Mile Zone

Aware

89

What should be done:

Stay indoors

66

Leave area

25

Pay no attention

6

Don't know

3

WHETHER KNOWS ABOUT A PREDESIGNATED ROAD ROUTE TO BE TAKEN IN AN EVACUATION  
AND WHETHER WOULD TAKE IT

---

Inside  
10 Mile Zone

8

Yes, there is a predesignated  
road route

31

No, don't know if there is a  
predesignated road route

69

-----  
Yes, would take the predesignated  
road route

41

Would leave the best way know how

56

Don't know

3

WHETHER KNOWS WHICH RECEPTION CENTER CHILD WOULD BE TAKEN TO IN AN  
EVACUATION DURING SCHOOL HOURS

---

Inside  
10 Mile Zone  
%

Yes	8
No, don't know	92

BASE: Parents

WHETHER EVACUATION PLAN SHOULD REMAIN AS IT IS OR FEEL SHOULD BE ALLOWED  
TO PICK UP CHILD DIRECTLY FROM SCHOOL

---

Inside  
10 Mile Zone

Attitudes before argument:

Remain as is	16
Pick up child directly	12
Don't know	72

Attitudes after argument:

Remain as is	7
Pick up child directly	7
Don't know	86

BASE: Parents

WHETHER WOULD FOLLOW THE PLAN, IN THE CASE OF AN EMISSION OF RADIOACTIVE  
MATERIALS, OR WOULD DO SOMETHING ELSE

---

Rest of  
Westchester

Would follow plan---stay put	44
Would go closer	--
Would get further away	53
Don't know	3

TO WHOM DECISIONS RELATED TO THE OPERATION OF THE NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS AT  
INDIAN POINT SHOULD BE DELEGATED

Rest of  
Westchester

Con Ed and the New York State Power  
Authority

23

Professionals brought in from outside  
who are trained in the nuclear energy  
field

75

Elected representatives

20

Public

23