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Town Supervisor

# TOWN OF CORTLANDT

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## **Update to our Community regarding the Closure of Indian Point From Supervisor Linda Puglisi (2/8/17)**

1. As you know, on 1/9/17 Governor Andrew Cuomo and the C.E.O. of Entergy (owner of the Indian Point Nuclear plants) announced the closure of these two operating nuclear plants in the years 2020/2021.
2. We were all very surprised since there was no advance notification to the host Village of Buchanan, (where the plants are located), the host Town of Cortlandt nor to the host School District Hendrick Hudson. The closure will also financially affect the Westchester County government, the Hendrick Hudson Free Library and the Verplanck Fire District. All are in the jurisdiction of Indian Point and receive annual revenue which assists in stabilizing taxes for our property owners.
3. The challenges we all face are:
  - 1) Tax Stabilization:  
The school district receives 33% of annual revenue from Indian Point, The Village of Buchanan 46%, the Hendrick Hudson Free Library 28%, a local fire department (Verplanck) 64%, Westchester County 1% and the Town of Cortlandt 2% of our annual revenue for our budget. We are all partners of what's called a P.I.L.O.T. – a ten year payment in lieu of taxes for tax stabilization. This revenue will end once the plants close.
  - 2) Job Losses:  
1200 permanent jobs plus part-time jobs and many contractors will lose their positions.
  - 3) Safety and Security Issues:  
The radioactive spent fuel rods that will remain in storage on this site – who will be monitoring and securing these rods?
  - 4) Environmental Issues:  
The reclamation/clean up of the land including the 33 wells currently on the property, groundwater and Hudson River protection.
  - 5) Further Economic Issues:  
Impact to our local small businesses – very important and to our Chamber of Commerce. The employees of Indian Point are consumers for these businesses. Also the reduction of assessment on this property once closed will be a factor for our tax stabilization issues. Future property values are big questions already being asked by property owners and we all have to be concerned about this issue.
  - 6) Re-use of this facility and property are major issues for our area.

4. Over the last several weeks Superintendent Joe Hochreiter, Mayor Theresa Knickerbocker and I along with many other officials who represent our communities hosted a large public forum on 1/26/17 at the Town's Community Center to show our unity in partnering together to meet the challenges we face due to the announced closure of these plants. The forum was well attended and after the officials voiced their support to us, the public asked questions and made important comments. This forum can be viewed on [townofcortlandt.com](http://townofcortlandt.com). We thank all of our officials for their support.
5. I pledged to set up a community unity task force comprised of the key stakeholders, the Chamber of Commerce, interested residents, realtors, etc. This has been done and our first working task force meeting will be held on 2/16/17 @ 7 P.M. at Cortlandt Town Hall. This task force will continue to meet for years with the goal to develop plans to address the many impacts we face due to these closures. Three and four years go by quickly and we need to plan immediately, which we will do.  
The task force will invite various speakers (from other decommissioned nuclear plant areas), other agencies (NRC, D.O.E., etc.) and perhaps retain a consultant to assist.  
All task force meetings are open to the public to listen. The members will be working and planning short term and long term. Minutes will be taken at these task force meetings.
6. Petitions have been written and posted on our website to download. Please help us gather many signatures to send to the Governor and to our federal elected officials to assist us with our issues and challenges.
7. The Superintendent, the Mayor and I were invited to the Journal News/LoHud editorial board to explain our many concerns and issues. It was well received and can be viewed at their website:  
<http://www.lohud.com/story/opinion/editorials/2017/01/12/indian-point-closure-coming-but-what-next/96399462/>  
Also, reporters from many media outlets have interviewed us. It's a good way to get our message out to the State and federal officials that we need their assistance.
8. I have spoken to a civic not-for-profit organization in Vermont regarding the closure of Entergy's nuclear plant, Yankee, in their State, This group will be attending an upcoming task force meeting so we can learn from their experiences.
9. I also am calling other communities, such as, Sleepy Hollow to see how they dealt with major taxpayers shutting down. The GM plant closed in 1996 and Sleepy Hollow had to plan for the loss of tax revenues, just like we will in Buchanan/Cortlandt/Hendrick Hudson School District. They could be one of our speakers to our group, as well.

10. I wrote a press release regarding the Governor's announcement of \$7.6 billion for upstate New York to keep two nuclear plants operating (see attached)
11. All of our elected officials including our Governor and U.S. officials have received letters, e-mails and calls from us telling them we need to plan NOW and we need their assistance.
12. The reuse of the 240 acres (current Indian Point property) is already being evaluated so we can have future rateables and jobs.
13. A newly established citizen group "Cortlandt Power Through" has been organized and they have begun their effort to assist our school district and communities. We are working with them and applaud them for their efforts and work. A representative from this group will be on the Community Unity Task Force.
14. Finally, NY State officials from the Governor's office including the Public Service Department will be coming down to speak to our key stakeholders so that we can ask them our questions and find out what the State can and will do for our community. That meeting will take place within the next several days.

We will continue to update the community on our collective efforts on the closure of Indian Point (2020/2021). Go to our various websites and Facebook page.

Thank you.  
Linda Puglisi