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Contact: Kyle Rabin, Riverkeeper – 845-424-4149 ext. 239; cell: 516-220-2507

PRESS RELEASE

Indian Point Guards Say They Can't Defend Against a Terrorist Attack

Internal Entergy Report Confirms Serious Lapses with Plant Defense; Guards Blow the Whistle on Weak Security

New York – As reported in today's edition of the *New York Times*, several active guards at the Indian Point nuclear power plant are blowing the whistle on weak security.

The security concerns they have come forward with include:

- Most security guards believe they can *not* defend the plant against a terrorist attack for the following reasons:
 - Guards believe that they are not properly armed with weapons to defeat attackers
 - Guards admit that they are under-qualified and under-trained with respect to gun handling qualifications, physical fitness tests, and training exercises
 - Guards are being hired with very little experience; in some cases guards are hired who meet just the minimum requirement of possessing a pistol permit
 - Guards are asked to follow strict routes of travel during security tests and mock attacks so that the security force pass their tests
 - Guards forced to work overtime (i.e. forced to work 6 or 7 straight days involving 12 hour to 16 hour shifts, even when ill)
 - Guards suffer from a high fatigue level
 - Guards have little confidence in their management in correcting past problems
 - Guards suffer from low morale, and do not feel obligated to stand their post in the event of an attack; guards admit that if an attack occurred, they would flee
- The facilities that house the highly dangerous irradiated or “spent” fuel at Indian Point are vulnerable to attack. (A catastrophic release of radioactivity from these facilities would cause thousands of peak fatalities and injuries.)



- Security guards are being suspended and terminated by Wackenhut and Entergy without proper representation and cause due to the fact that they are bringing serious security concerns to the attention of management
- A “chilled” environment exists at the plant and security guards do not feel safe speaking with management about their concerns
- Entergy management have asked security personnel to alter incident reports so that an incident becomes a less serious offense and non-reportable
- Company officials sugarcoat and cover up real problems (i.e. missing handgun, forging documents, giving second and third chances to pass re-qualifying tests, watering down mock attack drills).
- Numerous recommendations made by guards to improve security have not been implemented resulting in the same problems resurfacing time and again.
- Many incidents involving sexism, racism, homophobia and anti-Semitism.

Many of these concerns are corroborated in Entergy’s Report of Investigation on Indian Point 2 Security issued in January of this year. (Redacted version of the report is available to the media)

A few of the Indian Point security guards, Riverkeeper and Project on Government Oversight are available today, to speak with reporters.

“These courageous guards have validated the concern that security at the Indian Point nuclear plant continues to be disturbingly lax despite information that Al Qaeda terrorists are targeting U.S. nuclear reactors,” said executive director of Riverkeeper, Alex Matthiessen. “This should come as a major wake-up call for Governor Pataki and Senators Schumer and Clinton whose continuing inaction is leading to a crisis of confidence among New York residents. New Yorkers should remember that this is the same nuclear plant that Indian Point’s owner and Governor Pataki have called the best defended facility in the nation.”

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