

WESTCHESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY

MINUTES: June 9, 2008

MEMBERS (E&E): Chair: Abinanti; Legislators: Harckham, Kaplowitz, Myers, Nonna, Rogowsky

IN ATTENDANCE: STAFF: J. Sold; GUESTS: B. Randolph (CEO); Dr. G. DiResta, U. DiResta; L. Rainwater, P. Musegaas (Riverkeeper); G. Blain (Journal News)

Environment & Energy Committee meeting called to order at 3:40 pm.

Item(s) Discussed: **Nuclear Radiation Impacts; Update on Indian Point**

Chair Abinanti introduced the meeting topic of the review of health and safety impacts associated with nuclear power and the Indian Point Energy Center (IPEC). Mr. Musegaas identified and described proceedings involving IPEC in which Riverkeeper is participating: (1) NYSDEC review of required technology under Clean Water Act (cooling system), (2) Relicensing proceeding before USNRC, (3) Petition for USNRC to suspend license renewal proceeding to review audit report critical of USNRC, (4) Entergy petition to NYSPSC to reorganize its merchant plants into a separate entity. Ms. Rainwater then described Riverkeeper's current review of an independent safety evaluation commissioned by Entergy.

Chair Abinanti introduced Dr. Gene DiResta, a board-certified medical nuclear physicist and licensed professional engineer, to discuss health physics and risks associated with nuclear reactors and radiation. In his presentation, Dr. DiResta described the global distribution of nuclear reactors, arguments for and against nuclear reactors, the safety record of nuclear reactors, two nuclear fission reactors accidents, and the biological response to radiation. His conclusion is that there is a complete misunderstanding of health physics associated with radiation exposure, and the public risk from a nuclear reactor accident is highly overestimated. Leg. Rogowsky stated policymakers are challenged in setting policy because it includes balancing risk.

Upon the motion of Leg. Rogowsky, seconded by Leg. Myers, the Committee voted to adjourn (all in favor). The meeting concluded at approximately 5:05 pm. [An audio recording of this meeting is on file]