

PRESS RELEASE

New York Community, Labor Organizations & SHARE Applaud NY Attorney General Schneiderman for Clean Air Lawsuit

Clean Energy Sources, Such as Indian Point, Must Be Maintained While New Clean Energy Sources are Added

February 13, 2012 (New York, NY) – SHARE (Safe, Healthy, Affordable and Reliable Energy), a member based organizing including community and labor organizations from the New York City region, applauds New York State Attorney General Schneiderman for leading a coalition of 11 states in the filing of a lawsuit to compel the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to revise and strengthen national clean air standards.

Specifically, the lawsuit seeks to reduce the amount of fine particulate matter, or tiny particles of pollution, in the air. Fine particles are produced by the combustion of fossil fuels from traditional power plants, diesel trucks and heavy equipment. Once inhaled, fine particles lodge deep in the lungs and subsequently enter the bloodstream; worsening asthma, increasing the risk of cardiovascular disease including strokes and ultimately leading to premature death. As a result of less stringent fine particle standards, approximately 2,000 people in the New York City area die prematurely each year.

Recognizing the significant health hazards associated with fine particle pollution, SHARE calls for the continued operation and development of additional sources, of clean energy. In particular, the continued operation of the Indian Point Energy Center is vital, as it is the largest supplier of clean, nearly emission free energy in the New York City region. In August of 2011, a report commissioned by the City of New York, the Charles River study, concluded, among other things, that Indian Point's closure would result in an increase in toxic pollution. New York City and the rest of the state would see approximately a 15% increase in carbon emissions and roughly a 7-8% increase in nitrous oxide emissions as a result of replacing Indian Point's electric power with any of the currently available options.

Frank Fraley, President of SHARE, stated "SHARE applauds the efforts of Attorney General Schneiderman for recognizing the severe health impacts of dangerous air pollutants." Fraley continued, "As this lawsuit seeks to improve the quality of our air we must recognize the important role the Indian Point Energy Center plays as the region's largest source of low-cost clean energy and strongly advocate for the facility's continued operation. Without Indian Point, the health and well-being of our residents, especially the elderly and the young, will be at greater risk."

Numerous studies conducted over the years have shown the detrimental economic and environmental impacts of shutting down Indian Point. An analysis conducted by the TRC Environmental Corporation concluded that replacing the Indian Point Energy Center with the most efficient type of power plant and utilizing the cleanest fuel would still cause 6.9 million tons of CO₂, 583 tons of Particular Matter - 10 (a larger form of fine particulate matter) and tons of additional pollutants to be emitted into the air each year.

About SHARE: SHARE is a non-profit coalition of organizations committed to ensuring the continued supply of reliable, clean and affordable electricity for all New Yorkers. High electricity prices have placed an undue economic burden on New York families and businesses, while poor air quality has led to high asthma rates which place our most vulnerable at risk. SHARE and its member organizations are committed to working with local stakeholders in the New York metropolitan area to address these problems and provide all New Yorkers with the clean and affordable power they deserve.

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