

Entergy will be a major loss to region: View

Marsha Gordon 3:37 p.m. ET Jan. 11, 2017

Indian Point's planned closure raises important questions about energy, jobs and taxes, business leader writes



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Westchester County and the region were shocked by the announcement this week that the Indian Point Energy Center will be closing in five years. While the shutdown is not immediate, it nonetheless poses a wide range of significant and complex challenges for our future economy, our business climate and to every resident.

Entergy, the plant owner, is a long-time and very active member of the Business Council of Westchester and has worked tirelessly to assure the safe and efficient operation of Indian Point since acquiring the center more than 20 years ago.

The Business Council has been proud to support the excellent work Entergy has done to run Indian Point, and we appreciate the company's strong commitment to maintain the highest level of operations and management during the remaining years.



Marsha Gordon, president and CEO of The Business Council of Westchester. (Photo: Carucha L. Meuse/The Journal New)

As we have long stated, the power generated at Indian Point has played a direct role in stabilizing electricity costs in Westchester and the State of New York. We have repeatedly called for the plants to be relicensed, a process that has been unnecessarily dragged out for 15 years and counting. We are disappointed that this lack of action, coupled with the related massive legal costs, has contributed to the decision to shut down the facility.

We recognize that for some members of the community and a number of elected officials, the announcement is good news. Unfortunately, the shutdown poses an entirely new set of questions with no certain answers, including the loss of nearly 1,000 high-paying private-sector jobs and massive tax losses to the local community and school district.

Gov. Cuomo has repeatedly called for the plant's closure. We wait to learn how he intends to deal with the prospect of increased electric rates, the reliability of electric supply for Westchester, the Hudson Valley region and New York City, and the myriad of environmental and other issues the shutdown inevitably will bring.

We thank Entergy for its generosity and support of countless community groups, non-profit organizations and families across the area. In short, Entergy has consistently displayed the best of corporate citizenship.

The writer is president and CEO of The Business Council of Westchester.