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Replacement energy, jobs needed now before Indian Point closes: Letter

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(Photo: Poughkeepsie Journal)

With Indian Point’s closure less than three short years away, developing replacement power is essential – as is an honest conversation about the thousands of jobs and billions of dollars in economic activity we’re losing.

The New York Independent System Operator says it’s counting on a combination of three natural gas plants to replace Indian Point. One’s in New Jersey. The other two are under construction in New York: CPV Valley Energy Center in Orange County and Cricket Valley in Dutchess County.

The bad news is that the New York facilities may never go online, thanks to “Not-In-My-Back-Yard” opposition to the plants and the pipelines needed to fuel them.

Without natural gas infrastructure, we’re going to be forced to rely on generation from Canada and other states. We’ll be paying them while we struggle to replace lost jobs and the economic benefits that came with them – and we’ll lose control over our power supply. Ask Californians who depended on Enron for out-of-state electricity how well that worked out.

Importing electricity and exporting jobs is a lose-lose for New York – and it’s completely unnecessary. The state owes us a plan to ensure that even after Indian Point we’ll be making our own power here, by New Yorkers for New Yorkers.

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