

RESOLUTION 115 OF 2023

A MEMORIALIZING RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE DISCHARGE OF CONTAMINATED WATER FROM INDIAN POINT INTO THE HUDSON RIVER AND URGING GOVERNOR HOCHUL TO SIGN INTO LAW THE LEGISLATION AMENDING THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION LAW IN RELATION TO THE DISCHARGE OF ANY RADIOLOGICAL AGENT INTO THE WATERS OF THE STATE.

Sponsored By: Public Safety/General Government Committee:
Alderman Olivieri, Muhammad, Scott-Childress

WHEREAS, Holtec International, the company decommissioning the Indian Point nuclear power plant, has announced its intention to release water from onsite radioactive fuel waste pools into the Hudson River; and

WHEREAS, due to continuous contact with high-level nuclear waste, the radionuclide contamination of this water is expected to be significant; and

WHEREAS, to date, there has been no specific reporting of the radionuclide contents of the water scheduled for release;” and

WHEREAS, pre-release filtration to remove these isotopes has been presented as a solution to reduce the content of these carcinogenic contaminants to a level “as low as reasonably achievable;” and

WHEREAS, the National Academy of Science has indicated that there is no verifiable safe level of these isotopes when they are ingested or inhaled, and such pre-release treatment would not remove tritium, also carcinogenic, from the water; and

WHEREAS, any contaminants in the Hudson present the risk of entering the food chain; and

WHEREAS, there are seven communities upriver that source their drinking water from the Hudson; and

WHEREAS, since the river is an estuary that flows from south to north as well as from north to south, this impact on upriver communities must be considered; and

WHEREAS, the river also serves as a source of recreational activities and represents an economic resource that will be endangered by this reckless action; and

WHEREAS, the contaminated water can be reasonably stored in enclosed tanks on site without interfering with the decommissioning of the waste pools, affording time to study alternative waste solutions or uses for the tritium while allowing the radioactive material to degrade further; and

WHEREAS, the City of Kingston Common Council recently passed Resolution 98 of 2023, a memorializing resolution calling for a Bill of Rights for the Hudson River and its watershed and ecosystem; and

WHEREAS, New York State Senator Peter Harckharn and New York State Assemblymember Dana Levenberg have introduced legislation (Senate Bill S.5181 and Assembly Bill A.5338, respectively) that would ban the release of radioactive waste into the Waters of the State, including the Hudson River, by Holtec International or any other successor to the decommissioning from the Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant; and

WHEREAS, the legislation was recently passed in both the Senate and the Assembly.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KINGSTON, NEW YORK, AS FOLLOWS: that the City of Kingston vehemently opposes the plan to release over a million gallons of contaminated water from the Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant site into the Hudson River, and be it further

RESOLVED, the City of Kingston hereby urges the Governor to sign such legislation and be it further

RESOLVED, that the City Clerk is hereby directed to send copies of this resolution to the following individuals/agencies: the Environmental Protection Agency, NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation, NYS Dept. of Health, NYS Decommissioning Oversight Board, NYS Public Service Commission, Governor Kathy Hochul, Senator Charles Schumer, Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, State Senator Peter Harckham, State Senator Michelle Hinchey, State Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, State Assemblymember Dana Levenberg, State Assemblymember Sarahana Shrestha.

Submitted to the Mayor this ____ day of _____, 2023

Approved by the Mayor this ____ day of _____, 2023

Elisa Tinti, City Clerk

Steven T. Noble, Mayor