



## CRIME

## Unsolved Cold Case in Mount Pleasant

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that is probably the most logical reason. No one wants to admit that they were at a gay event.

So, what we are left with, is a family that may never get the closure needed to move forward. What if it were a gay event? Nobody cares. That's right, nobody cares what your sexual preference is. What the public wants is for those in attendance that night to step up to the plate and tell the truth. What really happened? Why haven't the "witnesses" been able to cooperate with the investigations? Is it embarrassment or is it pride? Bottom line, it is cowardly. The gift of truth that you will give to a family will far outweigh any embarrassment that you will ever experience. The Mount Pleasant Police Department have promised that any information given will remain confidential and anonymous.

This time next year, we hope that we will be celebrating the life of Larry Jamaal Warren with the questions about his murder answered.

## ENVIRONMENT

## AG to FEDS – Stop Toxic Nuke Dump at Indian Point



By Abby Luby

Buchanan, New York -- 1500 tons of high-level radioactive waste stored at Indian Point could not only pose a serious threat to the public, but may be there illegally. Last week New York State Attorney General Eric Schneiderman filed a formal lawsuit challenging the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) ruling that permits Indian Point, and 100 other nuclear power plants across the country, to store spent radioactive fuel next to their respective reactors 60 years after the plants closure. If the Buchanan-based plant remains in operation for another 20 years, the waste could remain on site well into the 22nd century.

At last week's press conference in White Plains, Schneiderman attacked the NRC for allowing nuclear waste to be stored without studying the environmental impacts.

"Our communities deserve a thorough review of the environmental, public health, and safety risks such a move would present. This is not just a safety and environmental issue, but also one that could affect property values in Westchester." The lawsuit, filed in federal court in Washington D.C., claims the NRC violated federal laws requiring reviews of health, safety and environmental threats.

30 tons of enriched uranium radioactive waste is produced at Indian Point every 18 months. The spent fuel is stored in 40-foot deep pools that currently stores 1,000 tons at each of the two reactor pools. Older waste is stored in 15 dry storage casks that stand on an open tarmac surrounded by barbed wire and one surveillance tower.

In December, 2010, the NRC changed their "Waste Confident Rule," extending the 30 year limit for on-site storage of radioactive waste to 60 years. Responding to Schneiderman's lawsuit the NRC issued a statement that said the rule was legally sound and safety issues had been evaluated.



*Dry casks stored at Indian Point overlooking the Hudson River in Buchanan, New York.*

"The NRC has carried out numerous studies on the safety of storing spent nuclear fuel at U.S. power reactor sites. These include a complete re-examination of spent fuel pool safety and security issues following the 9/11 attacks."

In an interview prior to Schneiderman's announcement, NRC spokesperson Neil Sheehan said the commission was sure that a "geologic repository capacity will be available to dispose of the commercial high-level radioactive waste and spent fuel generated in any reactor when necessary."

Sheehan referenced an article in Energy Daily that said Carlsbad, New Mexico, was interested in developing a repository. Until a repository is devised, Sheehan said a plan was also underway to allow high-level waste to be stored on site at all 100 plants for over 120 years.

David Lochbaum of the Union of Concerned Scientists said the NRC's plan is flawed.

"The NRC has confidence that a permanent disposal site will become available and that spent fuel can be safely and securely stored on site until then. The fact that NRC has had to re-affirm this decision at least twice seems to erode, rather than reinforce, that confidence."

Since 2002, the Department of Energy (DoE) has spent about \$9 billion to open a permanent repository for spent fuel at Yucca Mountain in Nevada. The site was originally chosen by Congress in 1987. Environmental groups have for decades fought against the repository and

succeeded in stopping the project. In its 2012 budget, the Obama administration omitted funding for the Yucca Mountain repository. The DoE has but yet to find a state willing to host the radioactive waste for the country's nuclear plants.

"The DoE's inability to meet this challenge despite hard effort would seem to thoroughly undermine NRC's basis for concluding that challenge might someday be met," said Lochbaum.

Joining Schneiderman in his lawsuit are AG's from Connecticut and Vermont. Local Hudson Valley environmental groups are also supporting the move.

Hudson Riverkeeper Executive Director Paul Gallay said he applauded the AG's efforts "for challenging a decision by the NRC that defies science, logic and common sense. We look forward to working together to ensure that Indian Point's nuclear waste does not sit on the banks of the Hudson River, wreaking further havoc on our environment for decades to come."

Indian Point owner Entergy Nuclear has applied to the NRC to renew their operator's licenses for Unit 2 and 3 which respectively expire in 2013 and 2015. The application has drawn an unprecedented number of contentions. If the licenses are renewed, Indian Point will operate for an additional 20 years.

*Abby Luby is a Westchester based, freelance journalist who writes about current, local news, environmental issues, art entertainment and food.*

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