

Power Generation Advisory Panel Meeting
February 03, 2021
Meeting Notes

Public Input Session

Following a brief overview of the efforts of the CAC and the Power Generation Panel's focus areas and discussions to date, the meeting was opened to the public to provide their thoughts and input. The following provides a brief summary of those comments.

Leonard Rodberg:

Professor Emeritus at Queen's College

- Why has the closure of Indian Point not been discussed by this panel? Closure has led to elimination of zero-emissions generation that is significantly lower than Indian Point's output. 10 years from now we'll be back to where we were after the loss of zero emissions generation from Indian Point even when replaced with solar/wind
- Study from NYISO indicates goals cannot be met with just solar/wind. Why is RNG included and not Indian Point?
- Why are NY experts in nuclear not involved in this panel?
- Why is nuclear not being included in the panel's plans and discussions?

Miles McManus:

- Believe we need to move a lot faster and avoid distractions
- Carbon Brief article from January 19 indicated that we are running out of available carbon budget. We need to cut emissions by the emissions reduced from COVID pandemic slowdown every year to reach our target.
- Sea levels now measured to be rising faster than the most pessimistic forecasts from article in Bloomberg Green.
- Move faster. Cannot take a full year for planning and approach.
- Can't afford to be chasing down bridges to nowhere (e.g. clean biofuels, hydrogen, etc.)

Isuru Seneviratne:

Queens resident and concerned former Harvard Extension student

- NY undergoing a generational shift in the wrong direction.
- 27% increase in NY's emissions from 2019-2020
- NYC's official filing to DPS indicates that achieving CLCPA targets requires an all-hands on deck approach
- Closure of Indian Point will lead to significant increase in emissions.
- Gap in generation is being met by fossil fuel generation and not zero-emissions. Indian Point is the single largest source of zero-emissions electricity
- CAC should go beyond what is politically popular
- Largest GHG emissions increase could occur under CAC panel's watch

Roger Caiazza:

Retired Meteorologist

- Potential consequences of transformation are potentially dire on affordability
- Germany's increase in electricity prices should be a cautionary tale -- 27% increase in the last decade and half driven by renewable energy surcharges
- Today's real costs are only cheaper compared to value driven estimates from this state.
- Uncomfortable listening to this panel when reliability issues are raised. There will always be peak electricity periods.
- Feasibility Analysis hasn't been done for renewables in deep winter to meet loads from transportation and building electrification
- Proposed strategies have to consider how to avoid regressive impacts of increased energy costs

Keith Schue:

Environmentalist and Electrical Engineer

- CLCPA will fail because lack of nuclear power
- The decision to shut down half of Indian Point's generation resulted in increases fossil fuel generation and impacts in EJ communities
- Renewables and efficiency did not replace Indian Point, gas did
- Supports wind and solar, but they will not replace baseload electricity. Energy density and intermittency will not be met.
- Need to have panelists who are experts in nuclear

Kyle Rabin:

on behalf of Alliance for Clean Energy in NY

- NY ACE will be submitting more detailed comments
- Ensure that wind and solar projects break ground and get built
- Developers need long term contracts, as well as streamlined interconnection, and permitting
- NYISO has been working to improve interconnection timeline and more progress needs to be made.
- Need transmission built and use of creative needs. Declaring public policy needs under FERC Order 1000.
- Should make a standard method for establishing property tax on wind and solar.
- Support identification of renewable energy zones
- Need to complete feasibility study for offshore wind in the Great Lakes
- Need to refine NYS policies on maintaining existing renewables
- NYISO modeling identifies challenge of renewables generation at critical times during periods of low wind generation

Dennis Higgins:

Retired Professor of Math and Physics at SUNY

- Due to premature Indian Point closure, NY will generate millions of tons of more CO₂e in 2021 than we did in 2019.
- New EJ communities have been created and existing communities have been targeted

- VT, CA, and GER have shown that replacement of nuclear with renewables has not actually panned out
- Low power density requires overbuilding of intermittent renewables
- Large % of renewables must be baseload or dispatchable power.
- Smart path forward would be to preserve NY's safe nuclear reactors and invest in new nuclear reactors
- Gas utilities support wind and solar because they are paired when generation is unavailable

Paul van Linden Tol:

Retired Librarian from Brooklyn

- Seems to be no middle ground between renewables support and fossil fuel support -- no nuclear experts on the panel
- EJ communities near me will be singularly targeted by increased combustion
- So far panel has not addressed drawbacks of renewables -- e.g. intermittency, overbuilding
- Panel has failed to address a plan for firm carbon-free energy

Adam Flint:

Network for a Sustainable Tomorrow

- Comments focused on LMI
- Lack of projects from community shared solar available and avg. discount is 5-10%
 - 20% discount is often needed to drive participation
- Community ownership and control needs to be made easier
- In order to make jobs in the solar sector more lucrative, value stack needs to be thicker.
- developers in NJ and Illinois achieve more lucrative returns
- Process ongoing in MA where utilities and state work together to identify sites for projects
- In favor of CCI
- Strongly encourage Agencies involved to advocate at the federal level

Dietmar Detering:

Environmentalism from queens

- Learn from CA and Germany. Shutdown of nuclear led to increase in emissions
- Indian Point generated 2.5x more electricity than solar and wind in the state -- could be maintained at minimal cost
- All of Indian Point generation would be cheapest way for NY to protect climate and EJ communities. So far, CAC and this panel have excluded nuclear energy experts

Richard Berkley:

Director of Public Utility Law Project of NY, but expressing personal views

- Energy in NY has been unaffordable for a large portion of the population
- Most of the municipalities upstate have financial difficulties.
- How does the state triage where to act first and where to get the biggest return on investment.
- Process should continue to be public and open. Need to include other languages.

Ethan Bodnaruk:

Licensed PE of water resources from Ithaca

- Will be more and more important to have carbon-free baseload energy
- Hope CAC considers the important role of nuclear in meeting 2040 goals
- Asks committee to urgently pursue carbon-pricing with EJ provisions – supports all carbon free technologies.
- Do not arbitrarily exclude nuclear from your work.

Sarah Wukoson:

East Williamsburg Resident

- Live in East Williamsburg near National Grid facility (frontline community)
- National Grid in process of building north Brooklyn pipeline which will go to the facility for LNG
- Sees this as a direct threat to her safety and environment

Commissioner Rhodes Response:

- North Brooklyn project is up for decision by my commission. Can't comment on it but will be coming in front of us.

Irene Weiser:

Fossil Free Tompkins

- Concerns with behind the meter generation using gas
- Started with Greenwich power plant
 - skirted thru a lot of the CLPCA GHG reduction goals
- Concern for upstate NY becomes an even larger concern when looking at NOx regulations at polluting plants downstate
- NOx regs would allow for this same type of BTM switch that would allow them to have some industrial use BTM and continue to burn polluting fuels for many years to come.

David Gower:

Community Solar Developer

- Graduate of master's program from Clarkson
- Community solar can benefit entire towns and community choice aggregations
 - allowing communities to be their own administrator – can bring entire community with them (no more equity issues)
- Indian Point was built in the 60s and has had 14 incidents, two in the 70s and 80s, and 12 from 2000 forward. We have to recognize nuclear is not renewable because its waste will last generations

Pramila Malick:

Chair of Protect Orange County

- Interested to know how the CAC will be involved in regulating emissions from individual power plants.

- On Indian Point - Operating since 1960s without a major incidence is comforting to her
- Orange County is the food-belt of NYS and reconsider fracking and disturbing the precious agricultural areas and soil.
- Only metric that should matter to the commission is carbon

Carl Perez:

CEO Elysium Industries

- Advanced nuclear developer in NY
- NYS has the best nuclear scientists in the world working for the navy
- Allow NYSEDA to fund research on nuclear -- moratorium not beneficial

Eric Dawson

- Should be technology agnostic
- Nuclear has lowest Land use and materials intensity
- Only 3 major nuclear accidents in history, only tragic one was Chernobyl
- Encourages panel to search for death per kW by power source, nuclear the lowest
- Three functioning plants nuclear upstate, Indian Point scheduled to close 4/30th

Michelle Rogat

Master's Student in Sustainability at SUNY Albany

- The only regional planning orgs that receive federal and state funding seem to be MPOs and are focused on transportation
- Regional planning effort between NYISO, utilities, and Local governments would be really helpful. Has occurred in other states

Brian Campbell

- Electricitymap.org shows live emissions.
- Compared to Ontario's carbon intensity NY is high.
- Ontario has a large % of their electrical generation by nuclear power, anywhere that is green on emissions map has high % of nuclear power or hydro.

Lynne Brunning

Upstate New York Citizen

- Disproportionate amount of renewable energy projects sited in upstate NY in which citizens don't have the same resources to contest
- Upstate has burden of the construction and loss of views, so that downstate and out-of-state PPAs provide affordable clean energy does not seem equitable.

- Should focus on nuclear so we don't pollute rural landscape with unreliable/intermittent resources.

Mica Levin

Generate Capital

- Remain technology agnostic
- Look towards hydrogen fuel cells, storage for solar and other intermittent sources
- Storage has come of age and can be rewarded with market signals
- Focus on stable, local, cleaner, focus on technology side

Gary Krellenstein

- National Academy of Science and Engineering released report stressing how to get to zero carbon emission: feasible but difficult
- One conclusion is that we must keep nuclear to achieve this goal.

Concluding Thoughts – Commissioner Rhodes

- Appreciates and takes seriously the various comments that have been made. A thread of pro-nuclear environmentalism has been quite a presence of this chat.
- Assures everyone that nothing nefarious in the composition of the panel.
- Panel was selected by the CAC after a lot of input and deliberation, no bias desired, trying to make the most helpful recommendations.
- Panel able to respond with better recommendations now that public has voiced this input