

reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels by 2030. The PSC's approval was challenged by fossil fuel generators but was upheld by the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York.

In its brief, NEI pointed out that in 2016, New York's nuclear plants avoided the emission of 20 million metric tons of carbon dioxide, while generating electricity equivalent to that produced by more than 5,000 wind turbines operating for a year. "To replace the electricity generated from New York's six reactors with wind power would require between 1,400 and 1,940 square miles of wind turbines," NEI said. "For reference, the *entire* land area of Long Island (including all of Brooklyn, Queens, Nassau, and Suffolk [counties]) is 1,401 square miles."

Other groups also filed briefs in support of New York's ZEC program, including the Natural Resources Defense Council and the Environmental Defense Fund; the states of California, Connecticut, Illinois, Massachusetts, New York, Oregon, Vermont, and Washington; the Institute for Policy Integrity; and energy law scholars and independent economists.

The New York appeal follows similar action in Illinois, where NEI recently weighed in on a court case in support of that state's ZEC program (NN, Dec. 2017,

p. 18). Both the New York and Illinois cases now are in the appeals phase.

CONGRESS

**Bills introduced to address impacts of plant closures**

Three bills were introduced in the House of Representatives on November 16 by Rep. Nita Lowey (D., N.Y.) to address economic and environmental concerns surrounding the pending closure of Indian Point-2 and -3 near Buchanan, N.Y., scheduled for 2020 and 2021, respectively (NN, Feb. 2017, p. 14). "We must act now to ensure on-site safety after the closure of Indian Point and to mitigate against economic hardship on our communities," Lowey said in a press release. "The legislation I have announced today would help facilitate the continued safety and security of the Indian Point site and would establish a new source of funding for the community so we can maintain steady jobs and support the tax base after the plant closes."

■ H.R. 4440, Redistribution of Fines to Our Communities Act, would require the secretary of energy to retain certain amounts collected as safety-related fines and redistribute a portion to local govern-

ments to mitigate any economic impacts in connection with the closure of the nuclear facility with respect to which the fines were collected.

■ H.R. 4441, Safe and Secure Decommissioning Act of 2017, would amend the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 to prohibit certain waivers and exemptions from emergency preparedness and response and security regulations. It would maintain the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's emergency response and security requirements until all of the spent fuel on the site is moved into dry cask storage, ensuring that spent fuel rods stored on-site at the closed facility remain "safe and secure" until a permanent repository for nuclear waste is operational.

■ H.R. 4442, Removing Nuclear Waste from Our Communities Act of 2017, aims to amend the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 to authorize the secretary of energy to enter into contracts for the storage of certain high-level radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel, take title to certain high-level radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel, and make certain expenditures from the Nuclear Waste Fund. According to Lowey, this would expedite the process to remove spent fuel by allowing the NRC to license interim storage facilities elsewhere in the country and to prioritize the removal of nuclear waste from sites in densely populated areas. **IN**



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