CITY OF BEACON
CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. 36 OF 2023

IN OPPOSITION TO THE DISCHARGE OF CONTAMINATED WATER INTO THE HUDSON RIVER AND IN SUPPORT OF A BAN ON ANY RADIOLOGICAL AGENT BEING RELEASED INTO THE WATERS OF NEW YORK

WHEREAS, the New York Constitution (Article I Section 19) was amended in 2021 to enact a Green Amendment that provides all New York residents with "a right to clean air and water, and a healthful environment"; and

WHEREAS, the City of Beacon recognizes that fulfillment of this right for communities within the watershed of the Hudson Valley requires an ecologically healthy river; and

WHEREAS, the Indian Point nuclear power plant is located in Buchanan, New York, which is approximately seventeen miles south of the City of Beacon; and

WHEREAS, the Hudson River is a tidal river and water from Buchanan flows to the City of Beacon; and

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

WHEREAS, the National Academy of Science has indicated that there is no verifiable safe level of radioactive elements when they are ingested or inhaled, and their release poses critical risks to public health and safety, including particularly acute risks to children's bodies, female bodies, and developing fetuses and embryos; and

WHEREAS, the fuel pool water has been contaminated with radionuclides including tritium, a radioactive hydrogen that cannot be filtered out of water, and which is linked to cancer; and

WHEREAS, the proposed pre-release treatment of the wastewater would not remove tritium; and

WHEREAS, any contaminants in the Hudson River and its watershed, as a tidal estuary, present the risk of entering the food chain, with tritium in particular known to affect fish and wildlife in the water; and

WHEREAS, the Hudson River is the primary drinking source for several communities in the region, including in Dutchess County, and the backup water supply for others, and there are community members who depend on fish from the River as a food source; and

WHEREAS, since the Hudson River is an estuary that flows from south to north as well as from north to south between New York Harbor and the Federal Dam at Troy, all communities both upstream and downstream of the Indian Point nuclear plant face exposure to the risks of the potential release; and

WHEAREAS, the Hudson River also serves as a source of recreational activities in the City of Beacon and represents an economic resource that will be endangered by this action.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Beacon strongly opposes the plan to release contaminated water from the Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant site into the Hudson River; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Beacon requests the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to evaluate the wastewater to determine the presence of any pollutants regulated by the Clean Water Act, and to halt the discharge of the wastewater if such pollutants are found;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Beacon urges the passage of New York Senate bill S.5181 and New York State Assembly bill A5338 to amend New York State Environmental Conservation Law to prohibit the discharge of any radiological agent into the waters of the State; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Beacon City Clerk is directed to send a certified copy of this resolution to the Governor Kathy Hochul, New York State Senator Rob Rolison, Assemblymember Jonathan Jacobson, the New York State Public Service Commission, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Resolution No. 36 of 2023 □ Amendments □ Not on roll call.			Date: April 10, 2023 □ On roll call			□ 2/3 Required □ 3/4 Required	
Motion	Second	Council Member	Yes	No	Abstain	Reason	Absent
	x	**Paloma Wake**	x				
x		**Justice McCray**	x				
		George Mansfield	x				
		Wren Longno	x				
		Molly Rhodes	x				
		Dan Aymar-Blair	x				
		Mayor Lee Kyriacou	x				
		Motion Carried	x				