1. Major activities for the year:
Members of our group were very active throughout 2014 in outreach activities and public education. We had numerous presentations on public-access television, on radio, to churches, and to other groups. We had informational tables at the three regional festivals sponsored by the Beacon Sloop Club. We were well represented in the two-day Great Hudson River Revival sponsored by Hudson River Sloop Clearwater. Individual members tabled at town festivals from Croton to Nyack, and we also participated in some events arranged by New York City groups. We held a weekly vigil through half of the year and stood vigil with other groups several times. We now have an outstanding PowerPoint presentation on Indian Point and Nuclear Power and a member well-versed in presenting it. Our Web page and our Facebook page have undergone major revisions and are now updated regularly. Several of our members are participating in a citizen-science monitoring program’s Radiation and Public Health Project to monitor radiation releases from Indian Point. A fund-raiser allowed the purchase of 10 monitors, and information will be collected from the networked computer system and compiled.

We worked with filmmaker Susan Rubin; many members appeared in her short documentary The Plan?, a seven-minute documentary that questions the evacuation plan for Indian Point and how little people understand about those never-try-out plans. Our group’s negotiations were instrumental in achieving the film’s debut at the Annual Indian Point Assessment meeting despite resistance from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Her film is still available on Vimeo (https://vimeo.com/96615872) and is very useful as an outreach tool.

On a wider scale, IPSEC member Susan Shapiro worked with Physicians for Social Responsibility, Nuclear Information and Resource Service, and Beyond Nuclear to submit comments regarding the Environmental Protection Agency’s proposed rule changes to weaken radiation standards and the proposed Carbon Rule that proposes to treat nuclear energy as a “preferred industry” by inaccurately claiming that it is emission-free. Peer-sourced scientific reports were searched and found to acknowledge that nuclear fission creates and releases newly produced radioactive carbon as radioactive CO$_2$ and methane into the atmosphere. Requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act were submitted to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. The requested documents have not yet been released. Direct heating emissions from nuclear energy were also researched with Dr. Marvin Resnikoff.

Our informational tables have a new look. We have moved from paper to postcard format. Fewer facts are now presented in a more user-friendly, eye-catching format. The postcards have proven to be highly effective as handouts and excellent as conversation starters; they have worked well at our outreach events. We have continued our campaign of thank-you letters to Governor Cuomo in order to keep Indian Point at the top of his agenda. In addition to the signatures we collected at outreach events on this year’s petition to close Indian Point, we also collected more than 13,000 signatures through a member’s involvement with CREDO and moveon.org. Our Announce e-mail list has grown and now has 1,832 names. We communicate with this group on a regular basis about what is happening at Indian Point and about forthcoming events and fund-raising.
Fund-raising has been and continues to be a challenging endeavor for us. We do not have continuous fund-raising or in-house grant-writing capability. We are just now looking at how we might do some grant writing as a more efficient way of funding some of our activities. Almost all our work is done by a small group of incredibly dedicated volunteers. Historically, when we have insufficient funds for a specific outreach event, we may do a combination of an e-mail blast through our listserv, a postal solicitation mailing to our donor mailing list, and passing the hat at our outreach educational events. Finally, if that proves to still be insufficient, our dedicated volunteers donate the shortfall.

This year, we moved into active participation with such other groups as Rockland Water Coalition, Stop Algonquin Pipeline Expansion, and Westchester for Change, which deal with different issues but are sympathetic to our work in closing Indian Point. There is tension between maintaining our focus as a single-issue organization and participating in a broader range of issues with other groups. The proper balance in this matter is something we are discussing.

We looked carefully at what we were doing and where we wanted to be at the end of the year. We decided to lobby elected officials and key decision-makers at all levels. We also decided to organize high-visibility events to raise public awareness and to listen to what other groups have to say to help change mindsets and to attempt more coordinated actions with other bodies: academic, faith-based, and social. We decided to do more intensive training of volunteers to help spread the message more widely, and we explored hiring a coordinator to help us keep track of everything and move our efforts forward. This past year, we consulted with the White Plains chapter of Pro Bono Partnership on becoming a 501(c)3 organization; they confirmed for us that it was not practical or reasonable for us to pursue this effort.

The mission statement we developed for 2014 is as follows:

We will focus our energy on public events and actions on developing and offering training, and on listening to, lobbying, and influencing key elected officials and decision-makers at all levels. We will be strategic about building relationships with key influencers in the media and in activist, labor, civic, and faith-based organizations. Our primary commitments are to prevent Indian Point re-licensing in 2015; to pass the Health & Safety Resolution in every government, municipality, and social organization in the region; and to emphasize a positive reframing around increased energy capacity and renewable energy.

Our third annual commemoration of Fukushima touched on many of these goals. We hosted “Blessing of the Hudson River and the Waters of the World” as we remembered our connection to all those suffering in Japan from this tragedy and the damage done to the Pacific Ocean. Jun-san Yasuda from the Grafton Peace Pagoda joined us as part of her Walk to the United Nations. Maria Maybe and other Native Americans were part of this Walk and the ceremony at Peekskill’s Riverfront Green Park. More than 100 people attended and found the ceremony to be quite moving. The group then moved indoors for a potluck dinner and further reflections and music. Although there was vigorous outreach to clergy and elected officials, participation from both groups was limited. Nonetheless, we had a number of speakers from varied traditions, and attendees responded positively to the day’s events.

We worked hard to understand the factors involved in the Department of Environmental Conservation’s Water Certificate hearings so that we could inform our members. These hearings
play an important part in relicensing. However, few of our members attended the DEC hearing, which was open for public comment on closing Indian Point during migration and spawning season. Entergy had a robust presence with black clergy and members of SHARE who came by bus from Brooklyn as well as a big turn-out from the business community in opposition to this plan.

Our plan to cultivate elected officials was thrown off target by the People’s Climate March (PCM). While our original decision was to participate but not get too involved, this historic event ended up taking a great deal of mobilizing time and effort by members of IPSEC. IPSEC members helped organize the Nuclear Free/Carbon Free contingent, one of the few contingents that were granted permission to have our own stage and address the crowd before marching. Gary Shaw was one of the speakers as was Yuko Tonohira. A few days before the PCM, we hosted an experts’ panel on Indian Point with Arnie Gundersen of Faire Winds, Tim Judson of Nuclear Information Resource Service, Manna Jo Greene of Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, and Gary Shaw of Indian Point Safe Energy Coalition. The panel was taped and part of it is now on the Faire Winds web site. We have a CD of the entire event and hope to prepare an edited print version because the information was so valuable. We coordinated with Nuclear Information and Resource Service and proudly marched with the strong anti-nuclear contingent. Our group was integral to planning a conference for anti-nuclear activists the day after the March.

IPSEC was represented at the Second Sierra Club Anti-Nuclear Conference, which was held in conjunction with NIRS. Several important strands ran through the two-day conference: the uranium mining at the front end of the nuclear fuel cycle, the nationwide war on renewables, and high-burn-up fuel. These are all matters we need to work on in the coming year. Another important item is the Revised Energy Vision for New York State (REV). If this goes into practice, New York will have a much better grid and distributed generation, and electricity from Indian Point will no longer be needed. Three activists from out West presented very impressive information on the impacts of uranium mining on their people and the land. We decided to explore this area further for our next Fukushima program so that our community becomes aware of the harm the process of getting fuel for Indian Point does to others and their land.

The Atomic Safety and Licensing hearings will resume now that the NRC has put forth a Waste Management Plan. The plan will hopefully be challenged in court because it is so inadequate. Clearwater will challenge the decision of the judges on the Environmental Justice contention. The decision of a judge to grandfather Entergy into the Coastal Management Plan will be appealed by Riverkeeper. We will continue to pursue an invitation to visit the New York Independent Service Operator in Albany, which runs New York state’s grid. The environmental Director of Clearwater seeks to hold a workshop on decommissioning for elected officials. We will undoubtedly play an important role in organizing for this major undertaking.

2. Victories and accomplishments:

Our victories and accomplishments this year were many. Requiring the Nuclear Regulatory commission to show *The Plan*? at their annual assessment meeting was a victory. In addition, follow-up questions by an IPSEC member resulted in discovery that Indian Point Seismic safety standards are almost 50% below g-force levels observed in the August 2011 earthquake that damaged the North Anna Nuclear Plant in Virginia, and that the spent fuel pools at Indian Point now hold more than 5 times the number of fuel assemblies than called for by the design basis.
Other major victories were our two outreach programs, The Blessing of the Waters of the Hudson and the Waters of the World, and the Experts Panel on Indian Point, as well as our participation in the People's Climate March. Our rallying point was a five-foot figure of greedy “King C.O.N.G.”, representing the coal, oil, nuclear, and gas industries and made by artist and IPSEC member Jeanne Shaw, which was carried throughout the march. The connections made during the People’s Climate March continue to bear fruit in our relations with other groups. It is clear from looking back at the excellent minutes of our meetings that the PCM threw off our schedule of outreach to elected officials, which had been planned for August. This is something that we will have to reconsider at a strategy meeting in 2015.

We have new and better outreach material, a presence on social media, and a strong core group that remains determined to continue the work to close Indian Point. All of this continues our forward momentum and will carry us to more victories and accomplishments in 2015.

3. Major impacts:
It is hard to measure major impacts over one year when it comes to Indian Point. This is a large complex issue that is moving through multiple courts and legislative hearings. It is a major accomplishment when dealing with a multi-billion dollar corporation like Entergy to remain a visible and viable opposition. Entergy spent well over a million dollars on advertising and even more on major publicity firms, such as Burston Marsteller, that are known for greenwashing. Despite our budget being less than $5,000.00, it is not an overstatement to say that our vigilance has influenced the relicensing process. The fact that the Indian Point relicensing battle is the longest in the history of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission speaks, in part, to our success in activating our elected leaders.

4. Activities and accomplishments in relation to last year’s objectives and plans:
Our objective remains the same from year to year—to close Indian Point. Our activities reflect that. We continue to experiment with different ways to advance this goal: attending NRC meetings, holding multiple press conferences, writing op-ed columns for local and regional newspapers, doing radio and TV interviews, and holding several major events each year. We have expanded our concerns to include replacement energy, explaining how the grid works, and making common cause with other advocacy groups. We have been especially active with Stop Algonquin Pipeline Expansion(SAPE), Rockland Water Coalition, and Westchester for Change. These organizations in Rockland and in Southern Westchester have expanded our geographical base and made a larger population aware of the need to close Indian Point. The outreach to Westchester for Change has been especially useful because of their close and organized connection to county and state legislators. Balancing the need to endorse the complementary actions of other groups and participate in their events with maintaining our focus on closing Indian Point was the challenge for the past year and will remain so in the coming year.

5. Objectives and strategies for the year ahead:
The Indian Point Safe Energy Coalition is primarily a single-issue organization. Our objective has been and remains the safe decommissioning of the reactors at Indian Point and the safe storage of spent fuel rods on-site in dry-cask storage, preferably HOSS (Hardened On-Site Storage). Our membership is broad-based and crosses the political spectrum. We work to expand this educated circle of people knowledgeable about Indian Point. Our outreach is focused on educating voters and public officials and supporting policy efforts supporting transition to new, clean, safe forms of
energy. We decided to focus on decision makers in communities surrounding the reactors in the hope that they will be able to influence legislators on both a local and a state level and support our Governor in his quest to close the reactors. It has proven difficult to mobilize our group with a consistent outreach strategy for one-on-one informational meetings with all legislators in the area. We are more effective organizing around events, public outreach, and education. The new Energy Highway program put forth by Governor Cuomo has provided a way for us to talk about how insignificant the electricity generated at Indian Point is in meeting the needs of our community.

6. Timelines, new programs, significant changes:
One of the most important factors in our success is regular meetings and regular actions. Showing up is 90% of the revolution. To that effect we meet as a group on the first Sunday of every month. Following up with team meetings, e-mails, and conference calls gives us an opportunity to plan and execute actions and to respond to whatever situation is current with Indian Point. This allows us timely communication with all of our members and has widened our circle of friends and supporters.

7. Changes in the organization’s structure, leadership, and membership or decision-making process:
Our organization continues to work by interest and volunteer initiative. If none of our members volunteers to lead an action, we do not take that action. Our structure is ad hoc teams; leadership varies according to the project or event on which we are working. We make decisions by consensus. We have added to our core group and to the immediate circle of those interested in details of closing Indian Point. This is our IPSEC1 e-mail list. We have also added many people to our Announce e-mail list. The Announce list gets fewer messages and less technical information; it is a much larger list garnered from our many outreach opportunities. This is the list we use for fund-raising and to gather people for specific events.

8. Leadership development and capacity-building efforts:
Many members attend workshops, panels, and forums to stay current on matters concerning Indian Point, nuclear power, and electricity generation and transmission. This year the Sierra Club sponsored their second Nuclear Information forum in Chevy Chase, Maryland, in conjunction with Nuclear Information and Resource Service. The information is brought back on the nuclear industry’s war on renewables across the country and the workshops on the Front End of the Nuclear Fuel Cycle were invaluable as we moved into the new year. Leadership development is informal. More experienced members work with new members to bring them up to speed and encourage them to take an active role as soon as they feel ready. We now have a member who is responsible for our Web page and has made great strides in revising it and keeping it up to date. We have a Facebook page and generally create a separate Facebook event for our special programs. We continue to try using social media for outreach and encourage all of our members to do the same for our events. We plan to post our annual report on our Web site and share it more widely, especially with our donors, so that they can see our progress more clearly.

9. Major challenges and responses:
One major challenge that we continue to experience is the difficulty in getting adequate press coverage of our events and press releases. All the grassroots groups with which we have discussed this problem are experiencing a similar problem. It seems to have as much to do with drastic
changes in the field of journalism as the perception on the part of editors that Indian Point is old news that has already been covered. Some members feel that the ownership of major media by giant corporations makes fair coverage of a corporation as large as Entergy much more difficult. We have an extensive press list, we call reporters, and we write interesting press releases. We use outreach tables, letters to the editor, and public meetings to overcome this lack of coverage as best we can. Several members in our group are excellent writers and have letters to major newspapers published on a fairly regular basis. We encourage our members to write letters to the editor, but we have not been able to track the number of times such letters are published.

10. Fund-raising plans:
Fund raising has been and continues to be a challenging endeavor for us. We do not have continuous fund-raising or in-house grant writing capability as yet. Almost all our work is done by a small group of incredibly dedicated volunteers. Historically, when we have insufficient funds for a specific outreach event, we may do a combination of an e-mail blast through our listserv, a postal solicitation mailing to our donor mailing list, and passing the hat at our outreach educational events. Our most regular volunteers are our most active contributors. We do keep track of major donors and we understand the need to keep them informed of our efforts, even if we have not maximized this goal. When we need additional money for a specific event, we ask our members to give it to us. They have been very generous in the past; when we lay out how much money we need and the costs involved in a particular project, we have always received it. The Sierra Club, Lower Hudson Chapter and also the Atlantic Chapter have given us grants in the past, as has the Guacamole Fund. For this we are most grateful. Finally, if these efforts prove still insufficient for a particular project or event, our dedicated volunteers donate the shortfall. We are just now looking at how we might do some grant writing as a more efficient way of funding some of our activities.

11. How do we let our members know about our sponsorship relation with A J Muste?
Our sponsorship relation with Muste comes up when we are fund-raising and people who want tax deductions for their gifts are asked to make the check out to Muste rather than to IPSEC. We explored A J Muste's online donation process, and we now have a link on our Web site to your online donation button. This will provide an opportunity for our membership to contribute in an easy and popular way and to become more familiar with A J Muste and what you do. Now that we have a Web site and someone who maintains it on a regular basis, we much more able to reach out to members and refer newcomers to what we do and what we hope to accomplish. The A J Muste newsletter remains an excellent way to inform our core group of the good work done by the foundation.

12. Steps toward becoming a 501(c)3:
We have discussed this possibility on a regular basis and have decided against it each time. We are a volunteer organization, and it is just more work than any of us can take on. This past year we consulted with the White Plains chapter of Pro Bono Partnership on becoming a 501(c)3 organization and they confirmed for us that it was not practical or reasonable for us to pursue this effort. Fiscal sponsorship seems to answer our needs for tracking our money and keeping everything straight for now. Our current structure of ad hoc groups allows our volunteer members to step forward when there is something they are ready and able to participate and to step back when their lives become too busy or a project is outside their individual field of expertise.
13. Will A J Muste sponsorship funds be used for lobbying, voter registration, get-out-the-vote, voter education, or other election related activities?

Muste sponsorship funds will go towards voter education and community outreach. The reelection of Governor Andrew Cuomo was hardly a surprise. We will continue to work to support him in his efforts to close Indian Point and to remind him that this is a priority that needs to be at the top of his action list. At our outreach events, we consistently have a table where people can write a thank-you note to the Governor for his work in closing Indian Point as well as a form letter that we collect and mail for people after they sign them. The material that we create and distribute is educational in nature. Our current outreach material consists of a series of attractive postcards. We use these as handouts and have gotten a good response; people seem happy to accept, take with them and pass on, more so than the letter-sized paper materials that we used previously. This year we also participated in the distribution of a postcard prepared by Susan Rubin, the producer of The Plan?, the film described above that was shown at the NRC Assessment meeting through our negotiations. The Plan?, which questions the evacuation plan for Indian Point, includes any of our members appearing as anxious citizens waiting at a bus stop for evacuation.

Prepared by Marilyn Elie, Ken Okin, Gary Shaw