

Entergy Generates Influence Will Cash and Connections Overpower Serious Debate?

The Indian Point nuclear power facility has become a flashpoint in the fight over public safety post-9/11. Environmentalists have long argued that the facility's evacuation plan is inadequate, and their position has found increasing support in recent years. Opponents argue that because 20 million people work and live within 50 miles of Indian Point, an accident or terrorist attack at the site would be catastrophic. The plant's owner, Entergy Corporation, counters that the plant is safe and has spent millions on campaign contributions and lobbying to bolster the case. Both sides may have valid points, but will lobbying spending and campaign contributions preclude real debate?

Entergy, a Louisiana-based utility corporation, owns and operates the Indian Point facility through its subsidiary, Entergy Nuclear Northeast. Already well-connected in Washington, Entergy began hiring lobbyists and donating generously to political campaigns in New York leading up to and following their purchase of the Indian Point 2 and 3 nuclear reactor units from Consolidated Edison and the state's power authority in September 2001 and November 2000, respectively.

New Power Players in NYC

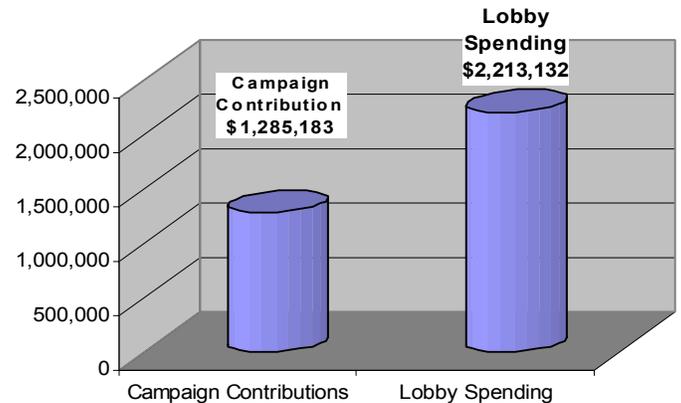
Entergy has been spending heavily on lobbying in New York City since 2002 in an effort to defeat Resolution 64, proposed by NYC Council Member Gennaro (Queens), that would call for the closing of the Indian Point facility.

After extensive delays, Resolution 64 is expected to come up for a vote in the coming weeks. 45 other municipalities in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut have already passed shut down resolutions similar to the one New York is con-

sidering. **It remains to be seen if Entergy's lobbying and campaign contributions will influence debate in the City Council. Although two hearings have been held on the resolution since it was first introduced in May, 2002, a vote has yet to be taken.**

In 2002, Entergy hired two lobbying firms, **Bolton St. Johns** and **Parkside Public Affairs**, specifically to lobby New York City officials. According to lobby reports filed with the city, these lobbyists have thus far been paid a total of **\$159,000** to lobby the City Council and the Mayor. The firms specifically reported lobbying Speaker Miller and Council

Campaign Contributions and Lobby Spending Add Up to Influence for Entergy
GRAND TOTAL = \$3,498,315



Member Gennaro.

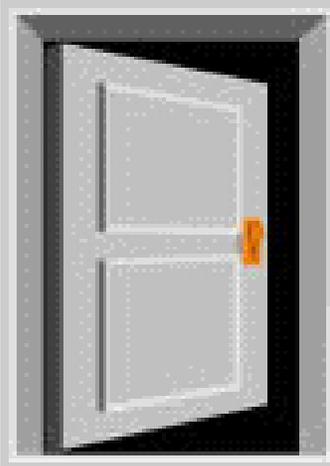
Entergy also made **\$7,250** in campaign contributions in New York City in 2002 and 2003 through ENPAC. These include:

\$1,750 to Speaker Gifford Miller for an undeclared race in 2005
\$2,000 to City Comptroller Bill Thompson
\$1,000 to Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrion, Jr. for an undeclared race in 2005
\$500 to the New York County Democratic Committee
\$2,000 to the Bronx County Democratic Committee

Insider Access is the Key to Albany's Revolving Door

Entergy's influence does not stop with cash. They have also made use of lobbyists who are well-connected to government officials. Former government insiders who have come through the "revolving door" and are now lobbying on behalf of Entergy include:

- James D. Featherstonhaugh, played a key role in Mario Cuomo's successful 1982 gubernatorial campaign; involved in a scandal in 1996 wherein he was accused of hiring former Senate Majority Leader Ralph Marino for \$200,000 over 2 years as a favor to the new Senate Leadership
- David N. Weinraub, former aide to Mario Cuomo
- Norman Adler, former Assistant to the Speaker of the Assembly
- Mel Miller, former Speaker of the Assembly
- Armand D'Amato, brother of former Senator Al D'Amato; in 1991 Sen. D'Amato was the target of a Senate Ethics Commission investigation concerning whether he used his office to further the career and lobbying efforts of Armand who was lobbying on behalf of defense contractor Sperry/Unisys by allowing his brother to use his office stationery to help Sperry gain contracts. It was determined that the Senator's actions were improper and Armand was later indicted on mail fraud.



Local Campaign Contributions

\$2,500 to the Westchester Republican County Committee
\$350 to Yonkers City Council candidate Pat McDow
\$500 to the Town of Highlands Republican Committee
\$150 to the Town of Wallkill Republican Committee
\$900 to Citizens for Diana, Orange County Executive
\$250 to Friends of Mayor Joseph Delfino of White Plains
\$400 to Westchester County candidate Rob Astorino
\$500 to the Town of Cortland Republican Committee



This fact sheet is part of the **Connect the Dots** series on **ENERGY**. For more information, please see our fact sheet on power plants, which can be found on our website at www.commoncause.org/states/newyork and look for more timely research on energy industry contributions coming soon!

Plugged into Localities Across the State

In addition to making campaign contributions in New York City, Entergy has also made **\$5,550** in campaign contributions in counties and municipalities located near the Indian Point Facility. *Orange, Putnam, Rockland and Westchester County are located within Indian Point's ten-mile radius emergency evacuation zone. This means that these localities are first responders in the event of an emergency at Indian Point. Furthermore, these counties are required to submit annual certification letters to the state to demonstrate that they have fulfilled all of the emergency planning requirements, and their failure to do so hampers Indian Point's evacuation plan certification process. Counties also wield the power to pass shutdown resolutions similar to the one New York City is considering. In fact, Westchester, Rockland and Putnam counties all have shutdown resolutions on the books.*

In addition to these campaign contributions, Entergy Nuclear carried favor with nearby Putnam County with another gift. In a speech given in September, 2003, County Executive Robert Bondi revealed that Entergy had donated \$500,000 to the county to defray the cost of its \$11.8 million Emergency Operations and Training Facility. (Journal News 9/11/03)

Campaign Cash and Lobbying Influence Radiate in Albany

CAMPAIGN CASH

Entergy donated **\$66,400** on the state level through ENPAC and its **Chairman, Bob Luft**, in 2002 and 2003. These donations include:

\$17,000 to Governor Pataki
\$15,850 to Democratic committees
\$7,500 to Republican committees
\$1,000 to Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno
\$6,500 to Assembly Speaker Silver
\$5,000 to State Comptroller Hevesi
\$3,600 to Sen. James Wright (R) the head of the Sen. Energy and Telecommunications Committee
\$1,000 to Assemblyman Paul Tonko, head of the Assembly Energy Committee
\$500 to Attorney General Eliot Spitzer

Other contributions were made to legislators from districts located near the Indian Point facility, including New York County, Bronx County, Westchester County, Nassau County, and Orange and Ulster counties.

LOBBYING SPENDING

From 2000 to August 2003, Entergy spent a total of **\$674,132** lobbying in New York State.

The lobbying firms hired by the company are some of Albany's most connected. They include **Plunkett and Jaffe, P.C.** the firm where both **Governor George Pataki** and his chief of staff, **John Cahill**, were formerly employed. Plunkett and Jaffe was paid **\$42,100** between 2001 and June 2003 to lobby, among others, Governor Pataki.

The State Emergency Management Office (SEMO), under the direction of Governor Pataki, also has a role in the emergency planning process.

Wired in Washington

Entergy has long been well-connected in

Washington, and spent heavily on both federal-level campaign contributions and lobbying. A final decision to close the Indian Point facility would have to come from the federal government.

CAMPAIGN CASH

Entergy contributed a total of **\$1,205,983** to federal level campaigns from 1999 through 2003. These include:

- **PAC \$: \$772,423** given by ENPAC to members of the 108th Congress from Jan. 1st, 1999 to June 30th, 2003, including:
\$184,624 to members of the House Energy and Commerce Committee
\$60,000 to members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
In addition, the PAC gave a total of **\$21,500** to New York State congressmen, including:
\$3,000 to Senator Clinton and \$1,000 to Senator Schumer.
- **INDIVIDUAL HARD \$: \$11,000** given to federal candidates by Entergy's Chairman, President and CEO.
- **SOFT \$:** A total of **\$422,560** in soft money contributed by Entergy from Jan. 1999 until Dec. 2002 (after which date the federal soft money ban prohibited this sort of contribution. Soft money was given to both parties, with **\$188,750** going to the Democrats and **\$233,810** going to the Republicans.

LOBBYING SPENDING

Entergy also spent **\$1,380,000** lobbying the federal government between 2000 and 2003 on a variety of issues.

Shutting Down Debate

The arguments for and against Indian Point are many and complex. While Entergy insists that the plant is "safe, secure and vital," environmentalists believe that the impacts of an accident or terrorist attack at the site would be more severe than the company has claimed. Entergy and its opponents have produced evidence to support their positions. What New Yorkers need now is not back room influence peddling, but serious and open debate about the issues at hand.



This fact sheet was created in November 2003 as part of a series called **CONNECT THE DOTS**, which aims to show how money in politics impacts on issues New Yorkers care about. For more information, please call us for a copy of the report on which this fact sheet was based, or see our website: www.commoncause.org/states/newyork/

To learn more about Common Cause/NY's **CONNECT THE DOTS** coalition, call 1-800-300-8707.

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