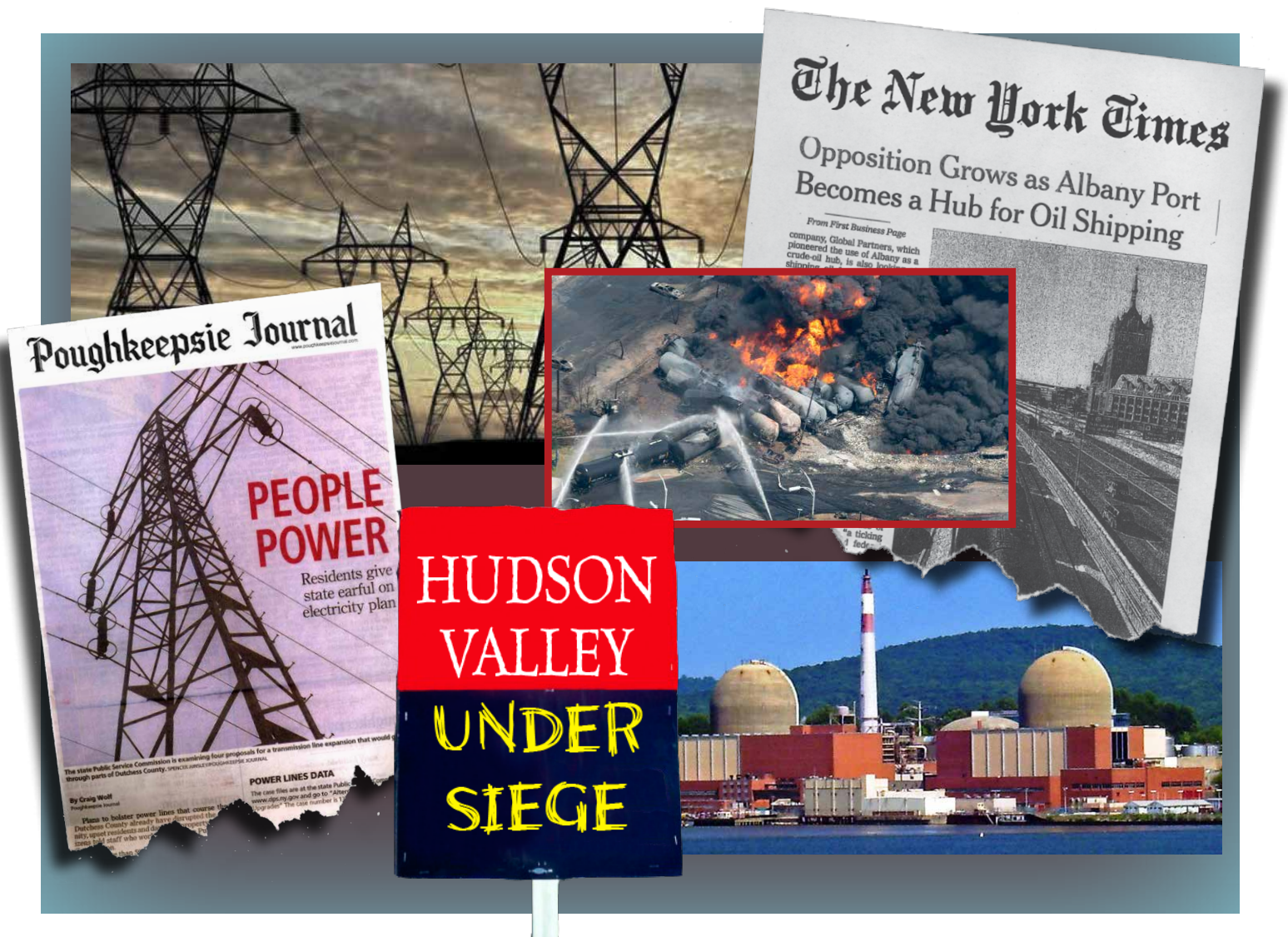


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ENVIRONMENTAL WATCHDOG UPDATE

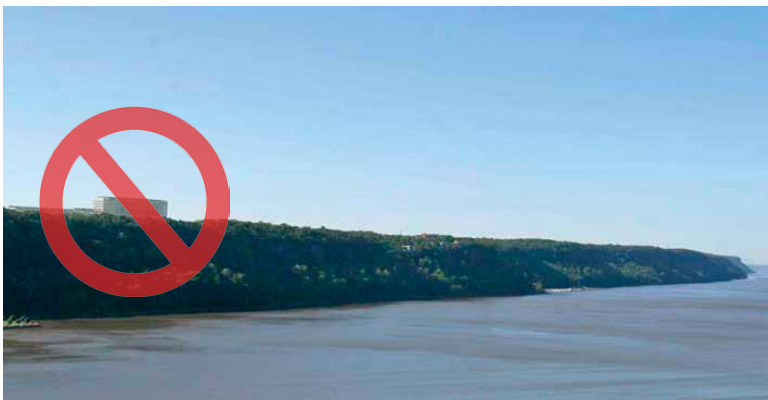


On the heels of our 50th anniversary, Scenic Hudson is leading and collaborating in combatting a tidal wave of environmental threats to the Hudson River and Valley. Now more than ever, our expertise and your activism are crucial.

The region's recent emergence as an energy superhighway—a "pipeline" for highly flammable crude oil and potential pathway for giant new transmission lines—imperils clean water, working farms, revitalized riverfronts and natural beauty—mainstays of our economy and excellent quality of life. At the same time, several ill-conceived projects stand to destroy world-class vistas and irreplaceable wildlife habitats.

To fight these projects we're using every tool in our 50-year playbook—galvanizing coalitions and partnerships, providing expert testimony, advocating in Albany and Washington, and making our case in courts of law and public opinion.

We've made great progress on all fronts. With the continued generosity of our supporters—our most valued partners—we *will* prevail.



Protect the Palisades

Goal: Halt LG Electronics' plan to construct a 143-foot-tall tower atop the Palisades in Englewood Cliffs, N.J. More than 30 groups have joined the Protect the Palisades Coalition we co-founded to stop this project, which would destroy an unspoiled vista cherished for centuries, and propose a low-rise alternative. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, four former New Jersey governors and most New York Metropolitan Area newspapers also strongly oppose LG's plan.

Latest action:

- We filed an appeal with the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs to overturn a Superior Court ruling that upheld zoning variances permitting the building's construction.
- A second lawsuit we filed challenges rezoning of the LG property to allow for a taller building.
- A new billboard funded by Protect the Palisades along Manhattan's West Side Highway bears the message "Don't Let LG Spoil the Palisades."
- The coalition's March 8 "Day of Action" at NY Metropolitan Area retail stores educated consumers about LG's irresponsible plan and the smarter alternative—a lower, longer building.
- National Park Service Director Jonathan Jarvis went public with his concerns that LG's proposed tower "threatens the nationally significant, historic scenic integrity of the Palisades in a major way."



Transmission Lines

Goal: Stop construction of new electric power corridors—with potential 165-foot-tall towers—that would pass through 24 valley towns (and across the Hudson River), imperiling scenic beauty, productive farmland, cultural/historic resources and critical wildlife habitats. The Hudson Valley Smart Energy Coalition we helped establish is providing vocal grassroots advocacy in many communities along the proposed routes.

Latest action:

- Following Scenic Hudson President Ned Sullivan's contact with top state officials and vocal coalition concerns, Gov. Cuomo announced a policy preference for projects confined to existing rights-of-way, in height, width and length. The state Public Service Commission (PSC) has encouraged developers to submit new or modified proposals meeting this preference.
- The PSC also agreed to consider several smaller projects, which would help our cause.
- We've urged the PSC to explicitly require all new lines to stay within existing utility footprints and be undergrounded whenever feasible.
- We've called on the PSC to solicit proposals for energy conservation, renewable energy and other 21st-century smart-grid alternatives.

Crude Oil

Goal: Protect valley communities and natural resources from serious risk of spills and explosions posed by transporting 1.2 billion gallons of highly flammable Bakken crude oil through the region via ship and vulnerable railcars. (Since January, two oil trains in the valley derailed, fortunately without dire consequences.) This threat soon could escalate—regional distributors already have received permits to increase annual Bakken crude shipments to 2.8 billion gallons.

Latest action:

- We called on Gov. Cuomo to take decisive action to avert the crude oil threat. He responded by ordering a statewide inspection “blitz” to protect residents, communities, waterways and lands from potential explosions and spills.
- We also urged legislators in Washington to ban crude shipments in puncture-prone DOT-111 railcars.
- Albany County issued a moratorium on development of an oil-heating facility in Albany that would expedite shipping of dangerous heavy crude. We’ve urged the state Department of Environmental Conservation to conduct a thorough environmental review of this facility.
- We’re also calling for full environmental reviews of Albany and New Windsor heavy crude oil facilities.



Jay Eichler, northeastrailfans.com

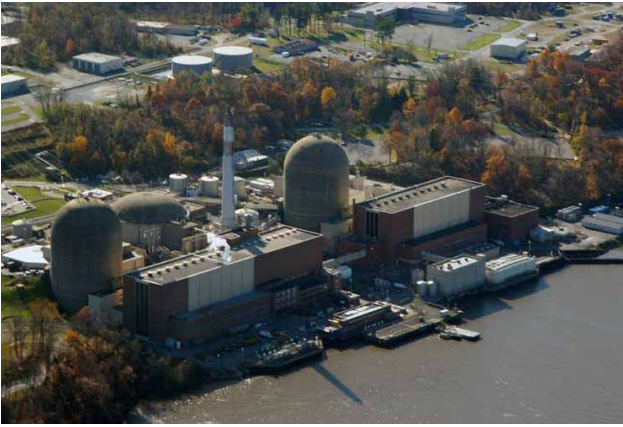
Rockland Desalination Plant

Goal: Halt plans to construct a desalination plant—among the costliest, most energy-intensive ways to produce drinking water—on Haverstraw Bay. The facility would remove up to 10 million gallons daily from the Hudson River and spew 100,000 gallons of briny wastewater back into the bay, one of the estuary’s prime spawning areas and nurseries for fish. Devastation from Superstorm Sandy also raises concerns about the plant’s viability.

Latest action:

- We succeeded in persuading the state Public Service Commission (PSC) to re-examine the need for the plant, based on reports we submitted about cheaper, more sustainable options.
- We’ve secured a hearing before the PSC over developer United Water’s request to hike consumer rates to recoup \$56 million spent on preconstruction costs—for a facility that hasn’t even been permitted.





Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant

Goal: Deny federal relicensing of the facility. The 40-year-old plant currently removes 2.5 billion gallons of water daily from the river and returns heated water to it—shocking the estuarine ecosystem and harming wildlife. In addition, radioactive material from the plant leaks into groundwater and, eventually, the river.

Latest action:

- In response to our arguments, the Albany County Supreme Court ruled that Indian Point is subject to a review of the facility's compliance with rules protecting coastal resources (coastal consistency).
- We're urging the state Department of State to deny coastal consistency certification—one of our best chances to prevent renewal of the plant's operating license. A decision could come later this month.
- We also continue to actively support the denial of Indian Point's Water Quality Certification by the state Department of Environmental Conservation. By law, the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission cannot relicense the plant without this certification.



PCBs

Goal: Keep pressure on General Electric—as we have for 40-plus years—to complete the most efficient and comprehensive cleanup of toxic chemicals it dumped in the river. Thanks in part to our persistence, the project is a year ahead of schedule.

Latest action:

- We're calling on GE to remove 136 acres of heavily contaminated sediment beyond the scope of its current Superfund plan for which it's ultimately responsible. Much of this sediment lies within the state navigation channel. Experts have determined that if more of the toxins aren't removed now, the cleanup will be less successful and the river's recovery—and resulting economic benefits—delayed by decades.
- We're urging the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the state to use their authority to require the expanded cleanup.



Tappan Zee Bridge

Goal: Ensure fragile river and shoreline habitats and waterfront revitalization efforts in surrounding communities are protected from impacts of constructing the new span.

Latest action:

- We're reviewing all state reports issued on bridge construction and attending quarterly meetings to watchdog compliance with permit conditions. We're also closely monitoring habitat-restoration projects—made possible by an \$11.5-million fund negotiated by Scenic Hudson and Riverkeeper.