

On the Indian Point Tritium Leak
Bill Menke, February 10, 2016

A correspondent asks me, Are you worried about the Indian Point leak?

I reply:

I do find the leak worrisome, but more in the sense of 'unsettling' than 'fear-provoking'. Tritium leaks have been a ongoing problem at Indian Point and many other nuclear power plants in the nation, even though considerable effort and money has been invested in preventing them. In this case, the engineers aren't even sure what's leaking! These leaks are a reminder that containment of radionuclides - something that a nuclear power plant really needs to do well - is not at all a solved problem. The spill also casts doubt on the safety of the plan proposed by United Water (the utility in Rockland County, where I live) to build a plant in Haverstraw (across the Hudson River from Indian Point) that would desalinate river water for drinking. The current lead fiasco in Flint demonstrates how slow - despicably slow, really - public officials can be in recognizing and reacting to contaminants in drinking water, Introducing Indian Point tritium into Rockland County drinking water would be a thoroughly bad idea