



Parents, students and other members of Northwest Bronx community rally at Bronx Borough Courthouse to move new schools into Kingsbridge Armory to ease overcrowding. Photo by Viorel Florescu

AN ARMORY TUG OF WAR

BY BRENDAN BROSH
and DANIEL BEEKMAN
DAILY NEWS WRITERS

Plan to move new schools in and boot military units stalls

SCHOOL PLANS, halt!

A group of Bronx parents in an overcrowded school district wants the city to boot National and New York Guard units from the Kingsbridge Armory annex and build four new schools there. But one potential solution has stalled.

Elected leaders joined families from the Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition at the Bronx County Courthouse yesterday to protest the mess.

"The Kingsbridge Armory has been abandoned by the state, the military and the city," charged As-

semblyman Jose Rivera (D-Fordham). "We're entitled to new schools."

For years, School District 10 parents have begged the city's Department of Education to add 2,000 school seats at the annex on W. 195th St.

Some local classes are so crowded that some students have no room to sit, said high school senior Fatima Daffeh.

The future looked bright last year, when City Councilman Oliver Koppell (D-Riverdale) suggested the National and New York Guard move to the Muller

Center in Wakefield, which the Army Reserve will vacate in 2011.

Yesterday, Assemblyman Jeff Dinowitz (D-Riverdale) called the plan a "triple-win" for the military, parents and Wakefield.

But the Muller Center's fate hinges on a federal Base Realignment and Closure process that began a year ago.

But the process, which favors homeless housing providers, has ground to a halt, said Carmen Rosa, district manager for Wakefield's Community Board 12.

Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. and two deputy mayors comprise a panel responsible for

the process. That process was supposed to have been completed by February, Diaz spokesman John DeSio confirmed.

The city has asked for more time, but the feds have yet to reply, DeSio said. Many Wakefield folks would welcome the Kingsbridge Armory units because they don't want the 55,000-square-foot Muller Center to become another homeless shelter.

Two homeless housing providers have requested the building, which sits on Nereid Ave., only blocks from a planned homeless shelter and a planned supportive housing development.

The city would rather "warehouse" the homeless than open schools, the Rev. Richard Gorman, Board 12 chairman, charged.

The National and New York Guard won't abandon the Kingsbridge Armory unless the city finds and funds a new home, said state military spokesman Eric Durr.

The annex was never included in the Related Companies' Shops at the Armory redevelopment plan, defeated in the City Council last year.

Education spokesman Jack Zarin-Rosenfeld said the department plans to add 1,650 seats in District 10 by September of next year.

Investment firm delivers another blow to Indian Point

BY ABBY LUBY
SPECIAL TO THE DAILY NEWS

THE BAD NEWS just keeps coming for the owner of the Indian Point nuclear power plant.

The latest came this week as Moody's Investors Service reacted to plant owner Entergy's announcement on Monday that it has ditched plans to spin off six of its plants to a new company called Enexus.

The state Public Service Commission rejected Entergy's proposed spinoff last month, warning that too much debt dumped on the new firm could eventually mean zooming utility rates for customers. Moody's cited an increased level of un-

certainty for the future of the multibillion-dollar utility.

The announcement came on the heels of another blow last week to Entergy when the state Department of Environmental Conservation turned down its application for a water quality certificate for Indian Point, citing the plant's antiquated water cooling system.

Indian Point takes in 2.5 billion gallons of water a day from the Hudson River to cool the generators, a process the DEC estimated kills more than 1.2 billion fish a year when the heated water is dumped back into the river. Indian Point's current operating license

expires in 2013. The company has an application before the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission for a new license to run the plant for an additional 20 years.

But the NRC requires an active water quality permit to keep the plant open.

Entergy has 30 days to resubmit their permit application and to request a hearing.

"This was not the final word on the subject," said Entergy spokesman Mike Burns. "We have a chance to comment before any final decision is made. We will appeal [any final decision] if necessary."

Entergy is the second-biggest nuclear-power generator in the U.S., with four

plants in New York, two of them at the 37-year-old Indian Point in Westchester County and two at the James Fitzpatrick plant in upstate Oswego.

The DEC wants all nuclear power plants along the Hudson River to upgrade their water cooling systems, a mandate that could cost Entergy more than \$2 billion.

Entergy has long fought legal rulings that require a new water cooling system at Indian Point. They argue it would cost about \$1.4 billion to retrofit the plant.

Entergy spent \$750 million in a shareholder buy-back plan on Monday to prop up their stock. For the first time in three years, Entergy raised their annual dividend by 11%, to 83 cents a share.