

PLANT PALS COME FORTH

BY ABBY LUBY
SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

BROOKLYN and Harlem residents trekked up to Westchester County last week to tell Indian Point nuclear plant officials they want the plant to stay open.

Members from the New York City-based group SHARE showed their support for Indian Point at an annual safety assessment meeting held by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

SHARE stands for Safe Healthy Affordable Reliable Energy. The plant's owner, Entergy, has applied for a new license to run the plant 20 more years, but it has run into problems, with the state blocking the application.

City energy group, union tell Indian Point big to stay open

The license for the 2,000-megawatt power plant expires in 2013.

"People on fixed incomes wouldn't be able to afford an additional \$1,500 a year for electricity if Indian Point is closed," said SHARE Executive Director Craig Wilson.

According to the New York Public Service Commission, New York State gets 29% of its electricity from four nuclear power plants, with Indian Point supplying roughly 15% to New York City and Westchester.

If Indian Point was closed, the electricity would be made up from other plants and rates would re-

main the same, according to the New York Independent System Operator, which monitors the state's electricity usage.

SHARE members held up white signs bearing the group's logo throughout the two-hour meeting. Wilson said that the group, started two years ago, works closely with the NAACP and Brooklyn's Medgar Evers College. Together, they've formed an advocacy group to protect the interests of low-income energy consumers.

The meeting was held at Colonial Terrace, a catering hall in Peekskill, just a few miles away from the plant.

Joining SHARE were more than 200 union workers from Carpenters Locals 11 and 424, who were treated to dinner by Entergy before the meeting.

Workers told the Daily News that if they didn't show up at the meeting they would be docked \$500. Other workers said they were obligated under their union contract to attend two "events" a year.

On April 3, the state Department of Environmental Conservation denied Entergy a water quality certification because the plant's antiquated cooling system was killing millions of fish a year.

At the Thursday night meeting,

NRC Regional Director Sam Collins said again that "The commission could not issue a new license to Entergy without the water quality certification. But these issues can be appealed and we have to let it play out."

Entergy has been hit with a number of bad blows recently.

This month, Moody's Investors Service cited an increased level of uncertainty for the future of the multibillion-dollar utility after Entergy ditched plans to spin off six of its plants to a new company called Enexus.

The Public Service Commission rejected Entergy's proposed spinoff last month, warning that too much debt dumped on the new firm could eventually mean soaring utility rates for customers.

He used to rock boat, now needs a new one

Michele Capozzi needs a new boat.

The lawyer, filmmaker and tour guide who still speaks with the heavy accent of his native Italy has lived on a boat he owned or rented at the 79th Street Boat Basin almost since he arrived in the city 32 years ago.

His last rental was sold from under his feet.

So last night his friends threw a party to help him get a new one.

Capozzi, 63, has some interesting friends.

That's why actors and actresses, writers and bon vivants of the city's thriving adult entertainment scene of the 1970s and '80s — including Candida Royalle, Vanessa Del Rio and Veronica Vera — gathered at the Slipper Room last night for a benefit burlesque show in Capozzi's honor.

"The Boat Basin is the main reason that I have been in New York for so long," Capozzi said. "I love this place. Many years ago I managed to get a spot here, and that bonded me to the Boat Basin, the upper West Side, and to New York City."

He discovered the Boat Basin when he visited an Italian filmmaker friend who had a boat there. His first rental, in 1979, cost \$300 a month.



Michele Capozzi, 63, is looking for a new boat at the 79th Street Boat Basin, where's he's lived for more than 30 years. Photo by Mariela Lombard

"That was not cheap," he said of his early rent. "That was probably market price for the upper West Side back then. Since 1979, I have probably lived in seven, eight or nine boats."

"The river is magic," he said. "I have been back and forth to Italy, to Los Angeles, but in my heart New York has been my home ever since I arrived here exactly 32 years ago."

An Italian-trained lawyer, Capozzi arrived in the city in 1978, a year after the now mythic Studio 54 nightclub opened its doors.

He embraced the city's carnal underside with a passion. His voice grows wistful as he speaks of 1980s New York nightlife.

"It was the best time," he said. "None of

this velvet rope, yuppies everywhere stuff. A movie star would be dancing next to a dockworker. It was fantastic."

Capozzi recalls Tuesday nights at Bowlmor Lanes, when two friends of his would transform the University Place fixture into a nightclub.

"Bianca Jagger was there, Andy Warhol was there, Keith Haring was there," he said. "People were bowling and listening to cool music from midnight until morning. It was the best club, and because the people who organized it were my friends, it was like my home."

"Those five or six years were the best times in New York City," he added.

The city's red light districts back then included Times Square and the Meatpacking District, and Capozzi plunged into them, writing articles for what he described as "not important" Italian maga-

zines and conducting tours of the scene, including adult clubs like Plato's Retreat and Hellfire, for visiting Italians.

"I remember a party in 1981 for a restaurant opening where we heard for the first time about this strange disease in San Francisco that nobody knew what it was," Capozzi said. "That was the first we knew of AIDS."

"Suddenly, in '83 and '84 AIDS came out, and in 1985, they closed all the sex clubs," he said. "And that was the end of that New York."

Capozzi's 2005 documentary, "Pornology New York," centers on the city's 1970s adult community.

"Michele has charm," said Vera, a party organizer. "He always reminds his friends, new and old, that we are a family."

"This is what families do."

crichardson@nydailynews.com

CITY BEAT
BY CLEM RICHARDSON