

Lack of Safety Precautions at Indian Point Nuclear Reactor Angers New York Personal Injury Lawyer

The Indian Point nuclear plant lacks basic firefighting tools in the vast majority of its facility, New York personal injury lawyer David Perecman has learned from the New York Daily News.

NEW YORK, NEW YORK – New York personal injury lawyer David Perecman, a strong advocate for workplace safety, was angered to learn that the Indian Point nuclear plant lacks essential firefighting equipment like sprinklers and fire extinguishers.

“This is a disturbing possibility. An employer needs safety precautions to ensure the safety of their employees and neighbors. These safety precautions are required by law and are put in place to prevent workplace accidents and protect everyone in the work environment and surrounding areas. And to think, this is nuclear power plant 24 miles from New York City. A workplace accident could be devastating,” said New York personal injury lawyer David Perecman, founder of The Perecman Firm, one of New York’s workplace accident law firms.

Indian Point's two aging and active reactors are divided into 275 fire zones, of which 198 lack automatic fire suppression systems, according to Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) records from 2009.

As reported by the *New York Daily News*, nearly 40 percent of the nuclear plant—which has been under increased scrutiny since the Chernobyl-level crisis around Japan’s Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant — has no manual fire suppression systems, like hydrants or fire extinguishers. Also, as reported by the tabloid, 63 percent of the plant lacks smoke, heat or flame detectors that are fire detection systems common to many major office buildings.

The tabloid picked up on the data from a March 28 petition from Attorney General Eric Schneiderman to the NRC alleging that the majority of the plant's fire zones "violate minimum federal fire safety regulations."

New York personal injury lawyer Perecman agreed with Schneiderman’s assessment that the failure of Indian Point to comply with federal fire safety requirements is “both reckless and unacceptable.”

Also of grave concern to the people of New York and personal injury lawyer Perecman, plant owner Entergy is actively seeking exemptions from federal fire safety requirements. With the exemptions, workers would shut the plant manually in case of a fire, instead of automatically through fire suppression systems.

“Many jobs exist where physical risk is taken every day. In most cases, employees are aware of the risks and it is part of their responsibility as an employee to stay safe.

However, critically, it is an employer's responsibility to take all necessary safety precautions to ensure their safety," said the New York personal injury lawyer. "When workplace accidents occur, employees most often end up paying the highest price."

A NRC spokesman said that the agency had not "identified any issues that rise to the level of an immediate safety concern." Schneiderman responded by saying that the feds are too tight with the industry.

The nuclear plant sits on an earthquake fault and has suffered two fires since 2007.

"Often you'll see that a lack of safety standards, and the cold calculus of money, cause horrific workplace accidents," said Pereco, a personal injury lawyer in New York for over 30 years. "As we learned from 9-11, we should never lull ourselves into believing a structure too big – or safe – to fail."

About David Pereco and The Pereco Firm, PLLC:

For the past 30 years, the personal injury accident, auto accident, construction accident, and medical malpractice lawyers at The Pereco Firm, PLLC have championed all types of cases concerning personal injury. David Pereco, founder of the Firm, is a Board Director and the past Secretary and Treasurer of the New York State Trial Lawyers Association (NYSTLA) and a chair of its Labor Law Committee. Mr. Pereco's achievements have brought him recognition as an Honoree in the National Law Journal's Hall of Fame, in New York Magazine's "The Best Lawyers in America" and The New York Times Magazine "New York Super Lawyers, Metro Edition" for the years 2007-2010.

<http://www.hrw.org/en/reports/2010/12/02/price-freedom>

The Firm has recovered millions of dollars for its clients. Among the more recent victories, Mr. Pereco won a \$15 million verdict* for a construction accident, a \$5.35 million dollar verdict** for an automobile accident, and a \$40 million dollar structured settlement for medical malpractice***.

*later settled while on appeal for \$7.940 million

** later settled for \$3.5 million

*** total potential payout

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