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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
July 9, 1979

WAYS AND MEANS
SUBCOMMITTEES:
TRADE
PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND
UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION
SELECT COMMITTEE ON AGING



Chairman Joseph M. Hendrie
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
1717 H Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Joe:

In assessing the viability of the Shoreham Nuclear Power Plant in Suffolk County, the need for an evacuation procedure has become clear.

Governor Carey, and County Executive Klein have expressed their need for a hazard assessment performed by NRC before the decision to start planning to evacuate can begin.

Apparently no risk study has yet been made and no data is available that can be considered reliable. Local, State, and Federal government entities must meet with someone from NRC in a position to evaluate and make recommendations on the various possible situations and the risk factor involved in each.

This need must be met now, decisions about Shoreham also depend on the community's ability to meet any emergency with a contingency plan and with clear guidelines on the authority to carry out these plans.

I anticipate your cooperation.

Sincerely,

THOMAS J. DOWNEY
Member of Congress

TJD/tm

P.S. My love to Elaine and
the kids.

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

SEP 26 1979

SEP 26 1979

The Honorable Thomas J. Downey
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

POOR ORIGINAL



Dear Congressman Downey:

This responds to your letter of July 9, 1979 addressed to Chairman Hendrie concerning emergency preparedness in Suffolk County, New York. Chairman Hendrie has asked me to respond to your letter in view of the fact that the application for an operating license for Shoreham is now pending before an Atomic Safety and Licensing Board. Under the NRC rules of practice, Chairman Hendrie and the members of the Commission may be called upon to review the orders and decision of the Licensing Board and hence it would be inappropriate for him or other members of the Commission to comment on the matters raised in your letter.

The final Safety Analysis Report for Shoreham is presently under review, including the applicant's emergency response plans. Our review of the applicant's plan will be done in accordance with 10 CFR 50 Appendix E and Regulatory Guide 1.101 (enclosed). We expect this review to be complete by the end of this calendar year.

The State of New York is actively reviewing its concurred-in emergency plan, and we expect to review detailed emergency plans for Suffolk County before the Shoreham Station becomes operational.

Under current rules, licensees are required to meet planning criteria of 10 CFR Part 50-Appendix E as a condition of licensing. We now have before the Commission a staff paper and proposed policy statement concerning the recommendations contained in the NRC/EPA Task Force Report, NUREG-0396/EPA-520/1-78-016 published in December of 1978. That document scopes on site emergency planning, including evacuation considerations. It recommends among other things, that an emergency planning zone for the ~~plume exposure pathway of about 10 miles in radius be established~~ around all existing and future commercial nuclear facilities. Additionally, evacuation as a protective measure will be reexamined in our review of guidelines and regulations dealing with emergency planning.

The Commission has also begun a rule-making action which will address the subject of emergency planning. The results of this rule-making will account for the lessons learned from the Three Mile Island accident. The staff is also embarked on a program to improve licensee State and local emergency planning for all operating power reactors.

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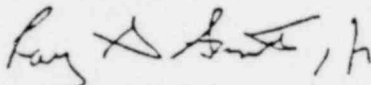
The Honorable Thomas J. Downey

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POOR ORIGINAL

Our Office of State Programs has been working with the State of New York on emergency planning, and is prepared to work with the appropriate local governments near Shoreham that should have emergency plans. County Executive Klein may call Mr. Robert G. Ryan, Director of our Office of State Programs to request NRC field assistance in plan development. Mr. Ryan can be reached at 301-492-8170.

Sincerely,



Lee V. Gossick
Executive Director for Operations

Enclosures:

1. 10 CFR 50 Appendix "E"
2. Regulatory Guide 1.101

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