

Haynes
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April 4, 1982

Mrs. Winifred Pichardo
P.O. Box 147
Montrose, New York 10548

Mr. Palladino, Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C., 20555

Dear Mr. Palladino:

I live in Northern Westchester, in Montrose, which is a neighboring town to Buchanan, and which is close - too close to the Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant. The first question I must ask is why was a nuclear power plant ever built right into the backyards of all of us in the surrounding communities? It was wrong from the beginning, but mistakes can be corrected - Indian Point must be closed down before a nuclear accident occurs.

Indian Point is a catastrophe waiting to happen! I am certain the Nuclear Regulatory Commission must realize this as a fact since these plants are old, rusting and falling apart. Not a week goes by without some problem. The most recent incident which occurred about two weeks ago at Indian Point #3 which did release radioactive steam into the atmosphere proves how unsafe and unpredictable these plants really are. We are all forced to live in fear and everyone agrees about this - how do we know they are telling us the truth when they said the leak was minor and posed no threat to anyone? How do they know that? Who measures the radioactivity of the leaks and how do they measure it? Why was there a leak in the first place?

The millions of dollars that have been wasted on putting up those 88 silent sirens and the evacuation plan they worked out should have been used on an alternative source of power in this area (not nuclear). The entire evacuation plan and the 88 sirens are a total farce, a shame and a waste. Do you really think that if there is a nuclear accident, that anyone can really be safely evacuated? If the N.R.C. believes this, then they have blinders on. Have you personally ever been in this area? If not, please come and see the road conditions that prevail. On a nice, sunny day, road conditions are bad. All we have is 9A running from Croton to Peekskill. 9A is a small, winding - one lane in each direction - road. (Most of the roads in Westchester are like this.) There are entrances to the expressway #6 (two lanes in each direction) as follows: one entrance in Peekskill, one entrance in Montrose and two entrances in Croton. Come here during the morning or late afternoon rush hours and see the jammed roads. Come when the V.A. Hospital and Tensolite Co. are letting out at 4:30 to see massive back-ups. Better still, come during a snowstorm and see unpassable roads altogether. In January, there was a small snowstorm of maybe two inches on a Saturday which turned to ice. Monday morning proved to be disastrous.

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Routes 9A and 9 were backed up and traffic stalled for hours from Peekskill to Croton, with several accidents. School buses could not get through and children were stranded throughout the entire school district for hours. It took almost a week until road conditions were back to normal (normal is not very good anyway.) Try a mass evacuation during a time like I just described, or even on a rainy day - it would be impossible! Those who believe an evacuation is possible are living in a fantasy world. Why should we all in the surrounding areas even be faced with such a possibility? The nuclear power plants should not be here. They do not belong here and they should be closed down.

We have the right to live with some peace of mind, and to watch our children grow up healthy and safely without the threat of a nuclear accident milling over our heads all the time. If there must be nuclear power plants then they should be built at the remotest, far away places from human life where they would absolutely prove no threat to anyone.

Recently, a television news reported interviewed a woman who lives in Buchanan very close to Indian Point. When the woman expressed her fear, the reporter asked her why she does not move away. I have a better question; Why don't you close down Indian Point? I feel that I do not want to live here anymore because I fear Indian Point, but so do thousands of others. Is the answer that we should all move??? If I move, how far away from Indian Point would be safe? They state that a ten mile radius is unsafe. So tell me this - what makes eleven miles away safe? Or even ten and a half, or thirteen miles? How do you really know what is safe? There are so many unanswered questions and it is all so experimental and the innocent victims- those living within the ten mile radius - are the guinea pigs. It is all so unjust and unfair. Would you or any of the members of the N.R.C. want to live near a nuclear power plant?

At the present time, four out of five nuclear power plants in New York State are out of service either due to radiation leaks or malfunctions. The same holds true in California. This does not speak too highly for the safety and efficiency of nuclear power plants, does it?

It seems to me that the members of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission should be up all night sweating and wringing their hands with worry over the fact that something catastrophic is inevitably on the way and if the N.R.C. choses to keep Indian Point open, they will be fully responsible for any tragedy forthcoming

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It will be too late then and it won't matter who's to blame.
The fact remains, an "accident" as you call it, can be prevented
Close down Indian Point! There are alternatives.

Again, I urge you, come up here and see the elementary school
just down the road from Indian Point and the homes only yards
away - the human life deserving to live free from this constant
fear and ominous threat....

May I expect the courtesy of a reply?

Sincerely,

Winifred Richardo
Winifred Richardo

1984

To: R. Haynes
RI
From: Dewayne Moore's
EDO

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Concerns re evacuation plan for Indian Point plant							
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