



50-247/286
LOUIS HEIMBACH

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

May 20, 1983



Dear Commissioner Palladino:

Orange County is one of the four counties within the 10-mile area of the Consolidated Edison and the Power Authority State of New York nuclear power plants at Indian Point in Buchanan, New York.

Orange County Government has developed and exercised an Emergency Radiological Response Plan which will be employed should there ever be a need as a result of an event at the Indian Point site.

Our success in planning and preparation was attained, not through Orange County's isolated efforts, but rather through the cooperation and hard work of Orange County's governmental staff, Orange County's volunteers, various agencies of New York State Government, Westchester, Putnam and Rockland Counties, Consolidated Edison and the Power Authority State of New York.

I was surprised to read in the May 6, 1983 edition of The New York Times, Nuclear Regulatory Commission member John F. Ahearne's comment which is as follows: "It appears to me that the licensees have not been effective in working with their governmental neighbors: I do not know if this is a misconception, whether it is due to a belief the NRC would never shut down the plants for inadequate emergency planning or whether the licensees have overlooked this relationship."

Emergency planning for the Indian Point nuclear power plants is very serious business. At all times, through the preparation and exercise phases of our emergency planning, the licensees have demonstrated complete cooperation with Orange County Government. In helping to develop the most comprehensive and effective emergency plan possible, equipment requests and technical support were provided when needed.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has certified Orange County's ability to respond in adequate fashion in the event of a possible accident at Indian Point. Our readiness is the result of hard work and cooperation between all parties involved.

Sincerely,

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Dr. Nunzio J. Palladino
Federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

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