

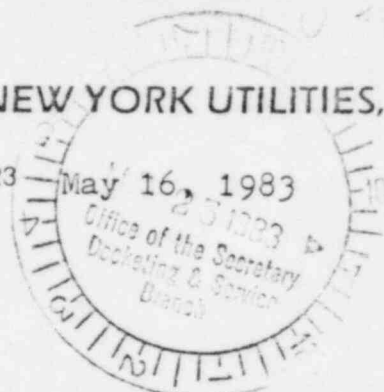


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50-247/286

Hearings re emergency planning
at the Indian Point Nuclear complex

Dear Sir:

Your commission is about to take actions on the matter of emergency planning in the event of accident at the Indian Point nuclear complex that will affect the entire nuclear power industry. I am sure your commission understands that emergency planning was suggested to give the public confidence in a new technology. This worthwhile purpose has been perverted by some groups whose interest seems to be creating fear and hysteria among our citizens.

I believe that any decision regarding danger to the public that would accompany the continued operation of the Indian Point nuclear complex must weigh the health effects of replacement by coal burning plants.

According to a 1979 study of the Biological Effects of the Ionizing Radiation Committee of the National Academy of Sciences, the probability of death from a 1000 megawatt nuclear plant is one person per year per reactor; for a coal burning plant the probability is 30 per year. A conclusion of the same order of magnitude was reached by a study done at the University of Pittsburgh. (copy of conclusions enclosed)

If the Indian Point nuclear complex is forced to close as a result of actions of this committee, the danger to the public health will be multiplied by a very substantial factor.

enclosure
A catalogue
of risks

Sincerely,

Herbert Jaffe

Herbert Jaffe, director
57 Elinor Place
Freeport N.Y. 11520

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A CATALOGUE OF RISKS

Introduction to a study called "A Catalogue of Risks" prepared by Bernard L. Cohen and I-Sing Lee of the Dept. of Physics and Astronomy of the University of Pittsburgh Pittsburgh Pa. 15620

"The public is constantly harrangued about all sorts of risks, and its perception of risks plays an important role in governmental decision making. The risks of radiation have expecially been emphasized in the popular press. This creates a very serious problem since the public does not understand risk. It gets highly excited about radiation risks which are almost never fatal, whereas it largely ignores other risks which claim thousands of lives every year."

THE CHART BELOW WAS TAKEN FROM THIS STUDY

Table 26. Loss of life expectancy (ΔE) due to various causes

| Cause | days |
|------------------------------------|-------|
| Being unmarried—male | 3500 |
| Cigarette smoking—male | 2250 |
| Heart disease | 2100 |
| Being unmarried—female | 1600 |
| Being 30% overweight | 1300 |
| Being a coal miner | 1100 |
| Cancer | 980 |
| 20% Overweight | 900 |
| < 8th Grade education | 850 |
| Cigarette smoking—female | 800 |
| Low socioeconomic status | 700 |
| Stroke | 570 |
| Living in unfavorable state | 500 |
| Army in Vietnam | 400 |
| Cigar smoking | 330 |
| Dangerous job—accidents | 300 |
| Pipe smoking | 220 |
| Increasing food intake 100 cal/day | 210 |
| Motor vehicle accidents | 207 |
| Pneumonia—influenza | 141 |
| Alcohol (U.S. average) | 130 |
| Accidents in home | 95 |
| Suicide | 95 |
| Diabetes | 95 |
| Being murdered (homicide) | 90 |
| Legal drug misuse | 90 |
| Average job—accidents | 74 |
| Drowning | 41 |
| Job with radiation exposure | 40 |
| Falls | 39 |
| Accidents to pedestrians | 37 |
| Safest jobs—accidents | 30 |
| Fire—burns | 27 |
| Generation of energy | 24 |
| Illicit drugs (U.S. aver.) | 18 |
| Poison (solid, liquid) | 17 |
| Suffocation | 13 |
| Firearms accidents | 11 |
| Natural radiation (BEIR) | 8 |
| Medical X-rays | 6 |
| Poisonous gases | 7 |
| Coffee | 6 |
| Oral contraceptives | 5 |
| Accidents to pedalcycles | 5 |
| All catastrophes combined | 3.5 |
| Diet drinks | 2 |
| Reactor accidents—UCS | 2* |
| Reactor accidents—Rasmussen | 0.02* |
| Radiation from nuc. industry | 0.02* |
| PAP test | -4 |
| Smoke alarm in home | -10 |
| Air bags in car | -50 |
| Mobile coronary care units | -125 |
| Safety improvements 1966-76 | -110 |

*These items assume that all U.S. power is nuclear. UCS is Union of Concerned Scientists, the most prominent group of nuclear critics.