

SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS FOR SECURE ENERGY, INC.

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DOCKETED
JUN 7 1983

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Miro M. Todorovich, Executive Director

May 23, 1983 '83 MAY 23 1983

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Mr. Samuel Chilk
Secretary
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

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RE: Docket Nos. 50-247
50-286

Dear Mr. Chilk:

Having reviewed voluminous materials from the proceedings related to the Indian Point nuclear power plants 2 and 3, having read the earlier and the most recent statements by members of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and having consulted many of our professional members' and friends, Scientists and Engineers for Secure Energy has concluded that there are no cogent reasons to close the aforementioned plants thereby depriving the people of New York and neighboring states of the economic and other benefits derived from these plants.

On the one hand, nothing has changed in the last three years that would invalidate the judgments articulated on this same subject by Professor, Nobel Laureate, and long time resident of Westchester County, James Rainwater, who in January of 1980 spoke on behalf of SE₂. (Copy of Statement attached.)

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On the other, the possibility of a major accident is so remote and the unfolding of a potential nuclear plant malfunction so gradual and protracted that on a practical time scale even the very unlikely case of a mishap requiring preventive or emergency evacuation could be accomplished by using the existing disaster services and the national guard and without the benefit of a fully completed, formal evacuation plan.

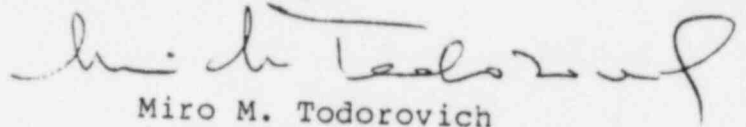
SE₂ does believe that it is a time honored duty of civil authorities to develop plans for any potential emergency and that, most certainly, it is not within their statutory powers to try to alter technological projects and the economic life of our country by acts of administrative disobedience.

In addition, it appears to SE₂ somewhat disingenuous for certain quarters to campaign for the closing of the plants - because of the alleged difficulties of evacuation - when many of the same protagonists are equally adamant in their opposition to transportation of nuclear wastes. Indeed, by closing the plants and still keeping the waste materials in place, the radiation risk would still be there demanding an evacuation plan.

Mr. Samuel Chilk
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For all these reasons, SE₂ concludes that the current difficulties must be resolved by frank and responsible discussion between the various levels of government. The plants themselves should not be held hostage to the process and should continue to operate as prescribed by other current regulations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "M. M. Todorovich", written in a cursive style.

Miro M. Todorovich
Executive Director

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Alexander von Graevenitz, Yale, V-Chair
Erich Isaac, CUNY-CCNY, V-Chair
Miro M. Todorovich, CUNY-BCC, Exec Sec'y

DR. JAMES RAINWATER'S JANUARY 18TH, 1980

SE2

STATEMENT CONCERNING THE SAFETY OF THE NUCLEAR POWER UNITS AT INDIAN POINT (#2 AND #3)

A - Personal Background

I have lived in New York State since 1939 and in Hastings-on-Hudson, Westchester, (20 miles south of Indian Point) since 1952. I have been a member of the Columbia University Physics Department since 1939 when I came as a graduate student teaching assistant. I have studied under Enrico Fermi, Edward Teller, I.I. Rabi, and John R. Dunning, an inventor of the technology for U-235 enrichment. I have over 35 years experience operating cyclotrons for nuclear physics research, during which I have had to deal with nuclear radiation. I worked under Dr. Dunning on the Manhattan district project during World War II. I have had the rank Professor of Physics since 1952. My honors include (a) Nobel Prize in Physics (1975), (b) Ernest Orlando Award of A.E.C. (1963), member U.S. National Academy of Science (1968), Fellow of the American Physical Society and Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers. I own no stocks or bonds except New York City "Big Mac" bonds. My only financial connection with Con-Ed has been as a bill payer.

B - Statement Concerning Nuclear Power (Indian Point)

Since the 1940s I have favored the development of civilian nuclear power since it was evident that fossil fuels had limited remaining life time and that fission power, if safely developed, represented a much larger potential energy source than fossil fuels. I have allergic reactions to sulfur dioxide, etc. related with fossil fuels, so I would never consent to live close to a large fossil burning power plant, while I would have no misgivings about living near a nuclear power plant.

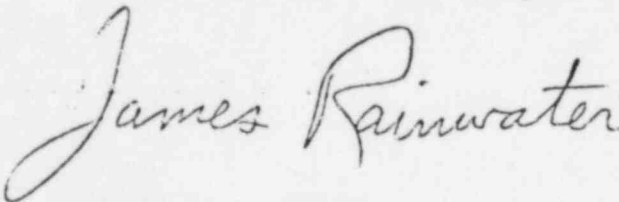
As with most U.S. citizens, I was disturbed by the strange developing story of the Three Mile Island (TMI) accident as reported in the press and television. I have therefore spent about 2 months effective time since then reviewing nuclear engineering, light water reactor safety, and, with full cooperation of the responsible Con-Ed staff, the detailed design of the Westinghouse #2 nuclear unit. My interest was in suggesting design and operating modifications for existing and (mainly) future nuclear plants for increased safety. My suggestions and comment

*CHARTER MEMBERS (partial listing): Robert K. Adair, Yale; Henry H. Barschall, U of Wisconsin; *Hans A. Bethe, Cornell; Felix Bloch, Stanford; David Bodansky, U of Washington; Norris E. Bradbury, Los Alamos; D. Allan Bromley, Yale; *R. Creighton Buck, U of Wisconsin; Bernard L. Cohen, U of Pittsburgh; Thomas J. Connolly, Stanford; John D. Courtney, Louisiana State U; Dwight H. Damon, U of Connecticut; R. H. Dicke, Princeton; *Albert Gold, NY Polytechnic; *Robert Hexter, U of Minnesota; Robert Hofstadter, Stanford; Behram Kursunoglu, U of Miami; Robert Lee, Hartford; W. F. Libby, UCLA; *John McCarthy, Stanford; John P. Madison, Argonne; Robert S. Mulliken, U of Chicago; Ernest C. Pollard, Penn State U; James Rainwater, Columbia U; Norman C. Rasmussen, MIT; Malcolm J. Sherman, SUNY Albany; *Edward Teller, Livermore; James A. Van Allen, U of Iowa; *Eugene P. Wigner, Princeton; Richard Wilson, Harvard; Werner Wolf, Yale. *Affiliation for identification only. *Member, STEERING COMMITTEE.

were sent to Dr. Kemeny (of the Presidential review panel), to the NRC, to the D.O.E., and elsewhere.

I found that the the Indian Point-Westinghouse design is such that the TMI type accident could not happen at Indian Point. Since the TMI accident all nuclear power plant operators are conditioned to avoid the type of mistakes at TMI and the systems have been modified so a repeat is essentially impossible.

It is my judgment that a catastrophic accident (Rasmussen #9) requiring massive evacuation is miniscule and that, therefore, the Indian Point plants can continue to operate safely. I would have no misgivings about living much closer to the Indian Point plants except for the problem of extra commuting distance to Columbia. The nuclear power plant safety record remains at the remarkable zero deaths due to nuclear accidents and they are very much more pollution free than fossil fuel power plants. I believe that the danger to New York City is essentially zero.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Rainwater". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

James Rainwater