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To: Secretary, U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555
Subject: Testimony before the Commission concerning closing of the

Indian Point Nuclear Power facilities

Date 20 May 1983

The author is writing as a Concerned Citizen, with no commercial ties.

His education and experience are summarized after the principal content of the paper.

Any scientists I have known, as well as myself, consider the potential hazards of a nuclear power plant to be in an entirely different and lower category than those of even the lowest-power atomic bombs.

Any nuclear power plant utilizes a steel containment building so thick and rugged as to sustain any possible internal explosion. At 3 Mile Island, for example, a hydrogen-oxygen explosion occurred which had no exterior effect. Radioactive gases were generated, but no significant leakage to the outside air occurred. No local people were in jeopardy and no evacuation was necessary.

Officials of the power authorities involved have advised that people local to the power plants merely stay indoors with their windows closed and their air conditions turned off. They should listen to the radio for instructions. And they should not hop into their cars and take off, because that would result in massive highway congestion; and people in cars would be more susceptible to radioactive gas than those within buildings. I agree with this. And I further suggest that basements of hospitals be equipped to receive patients and staff in the rare event of a nuclear accident getting out of control. This applies particularly to the Franklin D. Roosevelt Veteran's Hospital located south of the nuclear plants.

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Any closure of the Indian Point plants would have a "snow-ball" effect in that residents near other plants will take alarm and also demand closure of those plants. The net effect on oil consumption would be extremely expensive. And much greater use of coal would involve further problems with acid rain.

It is suggested that the solution to fear from nuclear radiation be sought in long-range education- from childhood to advanced age. An effort is being made at Indian Point by Con Ed to maintain a public information center, with some exhibits directed to school children. But it is not open Sunday, when most people are off duty, nor in fact on Monday. Everyone should be taught to understand a dosimeter. Those living in the vicinity of nuclear plants could wear a radiation detector, like employees in nuclear fuel factories and the like. The range of intensity-and-time radiation which is dangerous is not a definitive quantity, and data should be made available for public understanding. For instance, routine X-rays for check of lung problems are going out of fashion, but patients with cancer are treated with radiation to suppress the disease.

There is a real hazard for personnel entering a containment building after a melt-down. For that situation I suggest that robots be developed to do the work of dismantling a plant. Certain companies are specializing in robot design, and it might be to the advantage of the nuclear industry if the Federal Government assisted in financing such development.

The disposal of radioactive waste is a major problem. It is being worked on. I shall not presume to offer suggestions as it is out of my field.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard W. Carlisle, P.E.

Education and experience of Richard W. Carlisle, P.E.

He attended City College of New York, M.I.T. and U. of Pittsburg, receiving degrees in Science and Engineering from each one.

He attended evening classes in atomic theory at U. of Pennsylvania , 1931.

He was a research engineer at Westinghouse Electric Co., Radio Corporation of America, Sonotone Corporation, University Loudspeakers, Inc. and Dyna Magnetic Devices, Inc.

He was a member of the Regional Plan Association of New York circa 1950.

He attended courses at Manhattan College circa 1968 prepared by the Department of Defense, on protection from fall-out, the construction and air-conditioning of protective shelters. He is a Certified Fallout Shelter Analyst, No. 1TT0027068.

He has been active as a Civil Defense volunteer and as such has studied the use of radial and peripheral highways around centers of population.

He is familiar with the jamming of highways during WW II in the two situations of trying to evacuate Warsaw during the Nazi bombing and trying to leave Paris during the Nazi advance.

He has been a member of the Civil Defense Research Association (1953) and the National Institute for Disaster Mobilization (1955).

He is currently engaged in Civil Engineering and the development of acoustical devices.

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