

Intervenor Observer

Mike Waters

Observation Point

Cortlandt Emergency Operations
Center

Time of Observation

As intervenor for Croton parents, I was asked to follow a guideline of certain questions pertaining to the drill. I noticed that the Town Government leaders were having lunch when I arrived. I asked to speak to someone in charge and was led to Police Chief Robert Pavone. I also met with another Intervenor - Mrs. Flo Layefsky. We compared notes; she told me some things she had learned earlier and then I approached Mr. Pavone.

1) Equipment

Mr. Pavone was very vague on a lot of the information he was to give me. He stated that most of it was "Police Business" and to give out information was to subject him to a \$10,000 lawsuit.

They seemed to have been equipped with Radio Communications - walkie-talkies - as to the number of units, I was not told. They were also equipped with geiger counters. However, I did not see any and was not told of the number of units. Chief Pavone stated that they were limited in radiological equipment. Emergency vehicles were enough just to pertain to the workings of the department. Also, he stated that there was a limited amount of iodide. Most of the people involved were wearing dosimeters. Available were some that measured "rems" and "millirems."

2) Knowledgeable People

Most of the governmental leaders were available at the building. I felt that Chief Pavone was more than knowledgeable to handle questions so I spent most of my time speaking with him. There were three other officers

on duty. The Chief stated that they were able to handle a situation if he was not available. He mentioned that the drill was "good practice" for them.

3) Phone Calls

These were not obtainable. Chief Pavone alerted us as to any information that he thought was pertinent. At 2:15 pm, the Chief reported an evacuation of a 5-mile radius. He told us a few minutes later that it was heard over a ham radio -- not considered an official frequency, so the report was of an unofficial nature.

4) Preparation of Staff

The Chief stated that his department and the other Town departments were capable. He allowed me to read a copy of the "Local Emergency Response Plan," a document made up of the Town departments and chains of command, and regulations to go by in case of any disaster.

I noticed that on the second page or so that a list of emergencies was written out. Whether or not they were in order of importance I do not know, but Indian Point was listed last. Reading through the report, however, I realized that most of it did pertain to a nuclear disaster.

Commentary

In summing up the two hours worth of the day's activities that I was witness to, I might call the "feeling" of the drill mysterious. There was an air of mystery and vagueness abounding. For a drill that is supposed to be performed for the safety of the public, I felt that, as a member of a community I was not being told the whole story. When I arrived, as I stated earlier, the Town officials were having lunch.

Some of them left after a time, others convened in the Radio Room located on the second floor of the building. I was told that they were in conference, pertaining to the drill. No one told us what was going on; it was very secret. I would hope that in an actual emergency that the public would be well informed of the details.

I would have liked to know the specific numbers of important equipment, i.e., geiger counters, dosimeters, first aid, etc., but the information I obtained was limited.

I do feel that Bob Pavone was being as truthful and helpful as he could under the circumstances. I felt comfortable with him, knowing him well from past affiliations.

Leaving there yesterday, I could not help having a feeling of uneasiness. I couldn't help but wonder if, in an emergency of such seriousness, could the Town actually provide the adequate response and planning to safely carry the situation? Based on the material in this report, I could not come to a conclusion. All we can do is pray, and leave it in our Dear Lord's hands.