

Observer	Mr. Martin J. Larkin
Observation Post	Lakeland School System
Time of Observation	3:30 p.m. -- interview

The Lakeland School System is the largest suburban school system in Westchester County. It covers some 40 square miles in upper Westchester and lower Putnam Counties. There are two high schools, two middle schools, and five elementary schools. The transportation department operates 77 buses daily and serves over 7,000 students in both public and private schools. The buses must cover over 425 routes and travel about 6,400 miles each day. The entire district lies within the 10 mile emergency planning zone.

Dr. Leon Bock, the superintendent of the school system was interviewed by citizen observer Mr. Larkin, of the Lakeland Citizens Concerned About Indian Point about 3:30 p.m. on the day of the drill, March 9, 1983, when school was in session.

Dr. Bock informed Mr. Larkin that the revised evacuation plan, as determined by County Executive Andrew O'Rourke, was in effect during the whole time of the drill. This revised plan calls for an early emergency dismissal of all the students to their homes, replacing the previous plan calling for the evacuation of the entire student body from the 10 mile emergency planning zone.

The only manner in which the school participated in the March 9, 1983 drill was to receive a phone call stating that a drill was in progress because of a problem at the nuclear plants at Indian Point. An official observer traveled in one bus over one route within the district to attempt to ascertain the feasibility of such an early dismissal.

Dr. Bock further stated that, were such a dismissal to be in progress, all of the parents or guardians of the students would be called and notified that an early dismissal was in progress.

He also admitted that it would take a minimum of three waves to complete the dismissal process.

This whole procedure is, of course, open to question, and Dr. Bock also stated that, while it is a more sensible manner of handling the problem, it is still not without its own glaring difficulties.

Some of these glaring difficulties are more apparent than others: flooded telephone lines, accessibility of drivers, availability of parents or guardians to receive students, improbability of completing three waves with increased traffic problems, parents going to schools to pick up children who are delayed, traffic congestion, and other problems.