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May 15, 1983

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Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
1717 H St. N.W.  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Commissioners:

Please realize that the day of reckoning regarding the evacuation plan issue at Indian Point is finally coming on June 9th. May Commissioner Ahearne, whose term expires the end of June, vote his conscience, in other words to close the plants as he said he would because of significant deficiencies found by FEMA's report of the drill March 9, 1983. May Commissioners Gilinsky and Asselstine see, as they usually do, that this very highly populated area could not be effectively evacuated. The narrowness of numerous roads, many of the worst down as evacuation routes, makes them virtually impassable in a mass exodus. Those who would evacuate by bus are then left with no means out of the EPZ (emergency planning zone). May Chairman Palladino and Commissioner Roberts face the fact that "interim compensating actions" by FEMA to correct drill deficiencies cannot compensate for the unchangeable "givens" in this problem, in other words, the roads and the population density.

If bus companies partially "buy" the idea that they can evacuate the area, it may be because they are hoping for large financial compensation for driving during an evacuation. They, as well as you commissioners, must realize that their chance to earn double, triple, or whatever pay is not the issue. Possible exposure to radiation is the issue and it must be dealt with. Drivers, as well as any and all emergency workers, should be well trained and thoroughly educated as to: (1) types of radiation, (2) cumulative

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doses and at what level they should be called in from the field, (3) equipment necessary--radio equipment that has all the needed frequencies, dosimeters that start to register radiation at a low level and TLD badges to show radiation cumulation.

You have to realize that testimonies from the hearings state that many workers, such as ambulance drivers, teachers, school nurses will not stay on the job, but will try to get their families together and leave the area. Town supervisors have testified to the unworkability of this paper plan which does not deal with the reality of an emergency that people cannot see, taste, or touch. If the power goes out, then the area's 280,000 residents can't even hear the sirens (an "iffy" hypothesis at best) in order to tune to EBS which also will not be working. Of course, for the handicapped, including the deaf, none of that even applies since they have been doubly ignored by this inhumane plan. No provisions have been made for them and utility lawyers tried in many cases to not cross examine them in order to not bring forth their problems for re-direct examination by intervenor lawyers. In other words, if they don't find out the needs of the handicapped, elderly, and very young, they won't have any problems to rectify!

Well, all the problems are still here since: (1) the plants are operating, thereby causing a need for (2) a possible evacuation (3) in the most densely populated area in the country (4) on old-fashioned, narrow, winding country roads and (5) without Rockland County participating in the plan.

Do not let yourselves, commissioners, mask your thinking with the economic considerations of Indian Point. The plants' embrittlement problems make their life expectancy much, much less than originally thought, so it clearly is not a cheap energy in the first place. The ultimate issue here and now

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is safety! Sixteen deficiencies found by FEMA during the drill make it evident that any serious accident at Indian Point, and anything is possible, will have a devastating economic effect on the New York metropolitan area. If a serious accident occurred, there would be nothing to come back to, assuming an evacuation worked to any degree.

Do not become brainwashed by the highly publicized opposite view that negative economic effects would have on this area in the event of a shutdown. People survived financially here before the plants' tax benefits and retraining those workers for another type of power plant in the area will guarantee a more desirable area to live in, with power from a non-atomic source, free from plutonium, plant embrittlement, and millions of dollars spent on sirens and tentative evacuation plans.

Shutdown is, then, ultimately the necessity for the continued health and safety of the area which, incidentally, would also leave the area a viable, vital area for business and for residents.

Sincerely,

*(Mrs.) Kathy Toscani*

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cc: Croton-Cortlandt News  
Ossining Citizen Register  
Reporter Dispatch  
Peekskill Evening News  
North County News  
The New York Daily News

ASLB judges  
Consolidated Edison  
New York Power Authority  
County Executive O'Rourke  
County Legislator Gibbs  
State Senator Mary Goddhue  
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