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STATE OF NEW YORK  
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER  
ALBANY 12224

MARIO M. CUOMO  
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF SECRETARY  
DOCKETING & SERVICE  
BRANCH

October 4, 1983

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Dear Chairman Palladino:

I understand that at the request of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is coordinating an eight-agency federal review of an emergency preparedness plan written by the Long Island Lighting Company for the proposed Shoreham nuclear power plant.

While I understand that recent legislation does authorize the NRC to consider a utility developed emergency preparedness plan for a commercial nuclear power plant, I am writing to urge the Commission to reject the LILCO plan for Shoreham.

Suffolk County has clearly stated that it will refrain from implementing a radiological emergency plan at Shoreham because the County believes that it is impossible to safely evacuate or otherwise protect the public in the event of a serious nuclear accident at Shoreham. I have indicated that the State will not impose a radiological emergency preparedness plan on Suffolk County because I do not believe that the State alone has the capability or resources to assure that the public health and safety can be adequately protected.

While I have made no final judgement regarding the possibility of developing and implementing an adequate emergency preparedness plan for Shoreham, I am convinced that a preparedness plan which relies solely and entirely upon private utility workers cannot provide the degree of security necessary to conclude that the public health and safety of the region's residents are adequately protected.

In an emergency situation, even those involving more familiar disasters, one cannot always predict how individuals will react. This is especially true in the case of individuals whose normal responsibilities do not include the protection of public health and safety.

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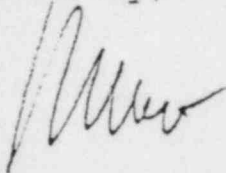
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Is it reasonable to assume that a utility-directed worker will respond in a predesigned manner when his action may involve a choice between evacuating a stranger and perhaps protecting his own family? Is it reasonable to assume that residents will react calmly to directives and mandates from utility workers whose company may be perceived to be the cause of the disaster? Under what authority would utility workers perform functions which may amount to an exercise of governmental power? I am sure this is not the scenario either envisioned or endorsed when the Congress and the NRC reasonably required the development of off-site preparedness plans for nuclear power plants.

I am certain that we all agree that before a new nuclear power plant can operate, there must be reasonable assurances that the public health and safety is adequately protected. I do not believe that an entirely utility-developed, utility-directed, and utility-operated off-site preparedness plan meets this standard.

Sincerely,



Honorable Nunzio J. Palladino  
Chairman  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
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