

RE: Evacuation Plans in Event of Nuclear Accident at Indian Point

Testimony of John F. Roden (Teacher, Yorktown Central Schools; President, Yorktown Congress of Teachers; Member Board of Directors, New York State United Teachers)

I. INADEQUACY OF PROCEDURES AS THEY RELATE TO THE WESTCHESTER PORTION OF THE TEN MILE EVACUATION AREA

- a. The Yorktown area contains only one major North/South escape route, Taconic State Parkway. Access to this highway would primarily be via Routes 202 and 6. As feeder routes to the Taconic or evacuation routes to the East, these routes are totally inadequate. One need only make a cursory inspection of these routes during normal commutation or shopping times, when traffic is often backed up at lights and intersections for more than a quarter mile. During an emergency one should anticipate a much higher level of traffic causing even more massive delays than normal.
- b. To this date, there has been no distribution of materials describing routes to be used by families, school children and school district staffs.
- c. To this date, there has been no discussion of which I am aware, in any school district, concerning the role of staff in any evacuation procedures.
- d. To this date, there has been no training concerning the role of bus drivers in an evacuation of school district children nor has there been any training concerning possible evacuation routes to be followed.
- e. To this date, there has been no discussion in any receiving school district concerning their role in receiving children from school districts which are being evacuated. In addition, no training of staff has occurred in receiving school districts, nor has it been determined if such districts have shower facilities, adequate food and clothing for the evacuees they are to receive.
- f. No procedures have been discussed or implemented concerning the provision of food and clothing at reception centers. Who will be responsible for requisitioning, supplying and financing such food and clothing has never been discussed or determined. At this time there are serious doubts that such facilities will be provided in the event of a nuclear emergency.

II. INADEQUACY OF PROCEDURES AS THEY RELATE TO PERSONNEL USE

- a. The evacuation plan envisions teachers and other school district staff employed by a district being evacuated playing an active role in the evacuation of school children in the event of a nuclear accident. Such a plan will not be implemented by such staffs, nor permitted by large numbers of parents:
 1. school district staffs will be most reluctant to be separated from their own families in time of emergency.
 2. Parents of school children will be most reluctant to be separated from their own children, during an emergency, due to the fact that the children may be transported to a distant school district. One can

easily envision parents jamming access roads, appearing at school buildings to demand their children not be transported. The logistical problems inherent in the plan cannot, in my judgement, be overcome, and will doom such a plan to failure.

3. Teachers and other staff members will be most reluctant to leave their own automobiles in their school district while they accompany children on school buses to some distant points. In many cases, these automobiles will represent the only transportation available to the district staff to use to evacuate their own families. It cannot be expected that staff will abandon their own means of transportation in the event of a nuclear emergency. The resolution passed by the teachers in Yorktown in March 1982 clearly indicates that staffs will not cooperate in such evacuation plans.
4. The evacuation plan requires that bus drivers from school districts outside the emergency area enter the emergency area in order to evacuate children in evacuation school districts. In the event of a nuclear emergency, there is little doubt that such workers would not jeopardize their health and welfare to enter a nuclear zone. Inclusion of such plans in an evacuation program further undermines such a program.
5. Due to the non-involvement in planning, the lack of training and the possibility of nuclear contamination as a result of processing children and staff from school districts within the nuclear danger radius, it is unlikely that staffs in receiving districts would cooperate as described in the evacuation plans. Despite the fact that receiving districts are outside the ten mile radius, the likelihood is that these staffs will also evacuate in order to both be with their families and to be farther from the nuclear accident zone.

III. INADEQUACY IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF EVACUATION PROCEDURES

- a. The emergency evacuation procedures were developed with no input from the school district personnel in districts involved in evacuating children and staff. This lack of input is apparent in many of the unrealistic expectations included within the plan, and will directly lead to failure of district personnel to participate in such plans.
- b. The emergency evacuation procedures were developed with no input from school district personnel in districts involved in receiving children and staff from evacuated school districts. This lack of input is apparent in the unrealistic expectations included within the plan and will directly lead to failure of district personnel to participate in such plans.
- c. The emergency evacuation procedures were developed with no input from school district personnel involved in driving busses into the danger area from outside that area. This lack of input is apparent in the unrealistic expectations included within the plan and will directly lead to failure of such personnel to participate in such plans.
- d. The emergency evacuation procedures were developed with no input from Boards of Education which must either supply busses for evacuation of children in other districts or may have to receive children from such districts and bathe, feed and clothe such children. These procedures in the plan have both social and budgetary consequences which are not recognized by the authors of the plan. This lack of input is apparent in the unrealistic expectations included within the plan and will most

probably lead to the failure of such school districts to participate in such plans.

IV. SUMMERY


As indicated in the attached resolutions of March 1982 and January 1983 and the previous statement, I would conclude:

- a. The local county roads will not and cannot handle the expected volume of traffic
- b. Many parents will not cooperate with the plans to evacuate their children.
- c. Teachers and other staff in evacuating districts will not cooperate in the evacuation plan
- d. Bus drivers from outside the affected school districts will not enter the nuclear danger zone and therefore, will not cooperate in the evacuation plan.
- e. Teachers and other staff in receiving school districts will not cooperate in the evacuation plan
- f. School districts will be reluctant to release their busses and provide food and clothing as presently envisioned and will not cooperate in the evacuation plan
- g. Employees will not cooperate in any plan in which they have not had active involvement in its development

Proposed Resolution to NYSUT R.A.

Resolution: Opposition to Reopening Indian Point

- Whereas serious questions have been raised concerning the safety of the Indian Point nuclear plant and emergency evacuation procedures in the event of a nuclear emergency at that plant, and
- Whereas these evacuation procedures have been severely criticized by NYSUT local unions, citizen groups, boards of education as well as the Nuclear Regulatory Agency, and
- Whereas these procedures were developed with no local NYSUT union input, and
- Whereas these procedures require students and NYSUT members working in school districts to be dispersed to widely diverse areas far from their homes and vehicles, and
- Whereas these procedures include the participation of NYSUT local members in such evacuation plans, and
- Whereas these procedures require NYSUT members and other workers from areas outside the nuclear danger zone to enter the danger zone to transport personnel and students at some hazard to their health and life, and
- Whereas NYSUT local members have received no notice of nor instruction in their potential roles in the case of nuclear emergency, and
- Whereas there are serious doubts expressed by local NYSUT leaders, community leaders and educational board leaders, as well as by the County Executive, concerning the possible success of these emergency evacuation procedures be it
- Resolved that NYSUT oppose evacuation plans which will separate members from their families and safe transport or cause NYSUT members and other workers to assume responsibilities which may cause serious harm to health or life at a time of nuclear disaster, and be it further
- Resolved that NYSUT oppose the reopening of the Indian Point Nuclear Plant until and unless a fully acceptable evacuation plan is developed with input from those groups affected.

Passed YCT Rep Council
1-25-83
, Pres.

Motion:

Opposition to Nuclear Emergency Procedures

Whereas the procedures for evacuation of school district personnel and students in the event of a nuclear accident at Indian Point were developed with no teacher union input, and

Whereas these procedures require students and personnel to be dispersed to widely diverse areas far from their homes and vehicles, and

Whereas these procedures can result in separation of children and parents in the same family to widely varying locations at a time of potential crisis, and

Whereas these procedures require workers from areas outside the nuclear danger zone to enter the danger zone to transport personnel and students at some hazard to their health and life, and

Whereas there is serious doubt as to the possible success of these procedures, be it

Resolved that the YCT oppose implementation of these procedures and YCT participation in such procedures, and be it further

Resolved that the YCT enlist support for this motion from other district employee unions, and be it further

Resolved that the YCT convey this motion to the Superintendent of schools and the Board of Education and request their support of similar resolutions, and be it further

Resolved that the YCT urge the Westchester and Putnam County Executives to convene a committee consisting of employee union, parent, student and administrative representatives to discuss and recommend alternatives to the present program

Passed YCT Rep. Council
March 1982
[Signature] Pres.