

T H E   W H I T E   H O U S E   O F F I C E

REFERRAL

OCTOBER 11, 1983

TO: NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

ACTION REQUESTED:

~~DRAFT REPLY FOR SIGNATURE OF WHITE HOUSE STAFF MEMBER~~  
*Direct Response*

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 169672

MEDIA: LETTER, DATED SEPTEMBER 26, 1983

TO: PRESIDENT REAGAN

FROM: THE HONORABLE JOHN L. BEHAN  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
NEW YORK HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
POST OFFICE DRAWER R.R.R.  
MONTAUK NY 11954

SUBJECT: REQUESTS ASSISTANCE REGARDING THE SHOREHAM  
NUCLEAR POWER STATION, LONG ISLAND, NY

PROMPT ACTION IS ESSENTIAL -- IF REQUIRED ACTION HAS NOT BEEN  
TAKEN WITHIN 9 WORKING DAYS OF RECEIPT, PLEASE TELEPHONE THE  
UNDERSIGNED AT 456-7486.

RETURN CORRESPONDENCE, WORKSHEET AND COPY OF RESPONSE  
(OR DRAFT) TO:  
AGENCY LIAISON, ROOM 91, THE WHITE HOUSE

SALLY KELLEY  
DIRECTOR OF AGENCY LIAISON  
PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

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PDR ADOCK 05000322  
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PDR

THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

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OCTOBER 11, 1983

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*Daniel R. ...*

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FROM: THE HONORABLE JOHN L. BENAN  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
NEW YORK HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
PO BOX OFFICE DRAKER S.R.P.  
MONTAUK NY 11954

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NUCLEAR POWER STATION, LONG ISLAND, NY

PROMPT ACTION IS ESSENTIAL -- IF REQUIRED ACTION HAS NOT BEEN  
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UNDERSIGNED AT 456-7426.

RETURN CORRESPONDENCE, WORKSHEET AND COPY OF RESPONSE

TO: (NAME) 101

FROM: (NAME) 101, ROOM 91, THE WHITE HOUSE

SALLY KELLEY  
DIRECTOR OF AGENCY LIAISON  
PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

ID: 169672 CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET PAGE D01  
INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE DATE 830926 RECEIVED DATE 831001  
(PREFIX) (FIRST) (LAST) (SUFFIX)  
THE HONORABLE JOHN L. BEHAN  
TITLE: STATE REPRESENTATIVE

ORGANIZATION: NEW YORK HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STREET: POST OFFICE DRAWER R.R.R.

CITY: MONTAUK

STATE: NY ZIP: 11954

COUNTRY:

SUBJECT: REQUESTS ASSISTANCE REGARDING THE SHOREHAM  
NUCLEAR POWER STATION, LONG ISLAND, NY

AGY/OFF ACTION CODE TRACKING DATE  
IAGLEA ORG 831003

STAFF NAME: PRESIDENT REAGAN  
COMMENTS:

MEDIA: L OPID: LW TYPE: IBA

CODES: REPORT IA INDIV: 2200

USER:

✓  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission

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83-10-11/12

#169672



THE ASSEMBLY  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY

JOHN L. BEHAN  
2nd Assembly District  
The Plaza  
P.O. Drawer R.R.R.  
Montauk, N.Y. 11954  
(516) 668-5656  
  
Room 719  
Legislative Office Building  
Albany, N.Y. 12248  
(518) 455-5997

COMMITTEES  
Veterans Affairs  
Ranking Minority Member  
  
Governmental Operations  
Ranking Minority Member  
  
Environmental Conservation  
Local Governments  
  
Contact  
☐ Albany Office  
☒ District Office

September 26, 1983

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to you about what is commonly considered the most important issue to face Long Island in this decade.

In 1981, you saw fit to consider me as one of the nominee's to head the Veterans Administration. I hope you will give me equal consideration on this most important issue, the Shoreham Nuclear Power Station. In 1973, the Long Island Lighting Company was given Nuclear Regulatory Commission approval to construct an 809 megawatt nuclear power facility at Shoreham, Long Island. At that time, federal regulations did not require the preparation of an emergency radiological response plan to ensure the safe evacuation of nearby residents in the event of a nuclear accident. After the accident at the Three Mile Island reactor in 1979, off-site evacuation plans were required by the NRC before a commercial operating license could be granted to a utility to begin operation of a nuclear facility.

At present, there is no approved evacuation plan for the Shoreham reactor and there is intense local debate concerning the granting of an operating license. The central issue of this debate has been the adequacy of evacuation planning in protecting the residents of Suffolk County. The county contends, after analysis of data and testimony gathered from experts from around the nation, that a safe and workable evacuation plan for Long Island is an impossibility. Given the geographic and demographic characteristics of Long Island, the Shoreham reactor is unique among commercial reactors in the United States as it is the only reactor to be constructed on an island. Long Island is narrow and densely populated. Roadways are often heavily congested and access roads off Long Island are limited. In the case of an accident at the Shoreham Plant, these roadways would become nothing more than giant parking lots.



The President  
September 26, 1983

The Shoreham Licensing Board recently ruled to allow LILCO to load fuel at the plant and to grant the utility a low-power operating license. It is my opinion that this is a foolish and dangerous decision.

Despite the county's strong opposition to all NRC licensing proceedings and their unwillingness to participate in evacuation planning, the NRC continues to view the evacuation issue as resolvable.

In his dissent of this decision NRC Commissioner Gilinsky stated that "the common sense and responsible view is that a low-power license should not be issued when there is substantial question that full-power operation of the reactor will ever be permitted". By granting LILCO a low-power license to operate the reactor, which will allow Shoreham to operate at five percent of total capacity, the NRC is presenting the residents of Suffolk County, most of whom oppose the opening of the plant, with a fait accompli with regard to commercial licensing of the plant.

Allowing LILCO to load fuel and to begin the nuclear chain reaction within the reactor core will make a strong case for the continuation of operation of the reactor and increase the costs of abandonment. In a report assessing the costs of abandonment of the Shoreham facility, LILCO stated that the "initial nuclear fuel core...would have no salvage value if the plant receives a low-power license before the decision to abandon is made". The premature issuance of a low-power operating license will have serious political, social, and economic consequences for the residents of Suffolk County.

With the final outcome of the dispute over the full-power licensing of the Shoreham facility still so clouded with doubt, the NRC decision shows a total lack of understanding for the larger, as yet unresolved issues. Failure to address the realities of the dispute could seriously jeopardize our lives and our lifestyles.

In addition, LILCO recently had to remove all three emergency diesel generators from the facility because of cracks in the shafts of all three units. These emergency generators are just one component of the plants safety system. In order to ensure the safety of the entire plant, Suffolk County has asked that Shoreham be submitted to an independent inspection and design review. LILCO has refused to allow for such an inspection. Without adequate assurances as to the safety of the reactor it is unconscionable to allow it to operate.

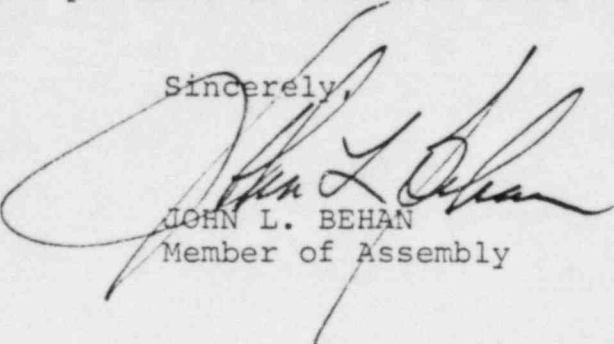
The President  
September 26, 1983

Shoreham is currently 8 years behind schedule for completion and 1000% over original cost estimates, a figure which grows every day. Removal of the diesels adds \$40 million a month to these costs. LILCO's current customer rates are among the highest in the nation and local ratepayers can ill afford the 56.6% rate increase which LILCO has asked for to cover the costs of the Shoreham project. The New York State Public Service Commission is conducting a "prudency investigation" of LILCO's management of this project which, according to one senior PSC official, is likely to have "serious and significant consequences" for the utility.

This letter has just begun to touch the surface of the Shoreham controversy. It is a complex issue, which the NRC seems unwilling to address. There are compelling reasons to allow us, the residents of Suffolk to make the determination with regard to operation of Shoreham as it is we who must live with the consequences of abandonment or operation.

The concept of "new federalism" you have advocated has brought new meaning to "home rule". Local problems are often best addressed by the localities themselves. This is such a case, and we ask for the opportunity to exercise it. Before any decision with regard to interim licensing of Shoreham is made, questions pertaining to the safety and ultimate fate of the plant must be answered. Responsibility and reason dictate such an approach. I therefore respectfully ask for your assistance in ensuring that the true needs of all Long Islanders are addressed by those who best understand them, the residents of Long Island and not by the Washington Bureaucracy blinded and confused by a plethora of administrative rules and regulations.

Sincerely,



JOHN L. BEHAN  
Member of Assembly

JLB:msm