

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: 12/01/00 EDO CONTROL: G20000533
DOC DT: 07/13/00
FINAL REPLY:

Judith Ordan, NY
(White House Referral)

TO:

Hilliary Clinton

FOR SIGNATURE OF : ** GRN ** CRC NO: 00-0687
Collins, NRR

DESC: ROUTING:
Indian Point 2

Travers
Paperiello
Miraglia
Norry
Craig
Burns/Cyr
Miller, RI

DATE: 11/16/00

ASSIGNED TO: CONTACT:
NRR Collins

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

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AUTHOR: JUDITH ORDAN
AFFILIATION: NY
ADDRESSEE: HILLIARY CLINTON
SUBJECT: INDIAN POINT II

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PUSHKAR

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DATE DUE: 12/01/2000 **DATE SIGNED:**

EDO --G20000533

Chippewa, 3-17-1914
150 N. Bedford Road
West 10
Greenwich, Order

Dear Mrs. Clinton,
I am very disappointed that
you have not responded to my
letter on my daughter's E-mail
regarding her Form.
I am sure we that you
have not expressed any concern
about a dangerous situation
that affects your family and
the families of your future
constituent.

7-13-00
7311711

Chippewa
Hill
Hill

Correspondence# 7311711
Nuclear Regulatory Commission

October 30, 2000

Ms. Judith Ordan
Apartment D-1
150 North Bedford Road
Chappaqua, New York 10514

Dear Ms. Ordan:

Thank you very much for your recent letter. Mrs. Clinton greatly appreciates your expression of trust and confidence in her.

To ensure that your concerns are addressed, I have referred your letter to the following agency for any appropriate action:

Nuclear Regulatory Commission
11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, Maryland 20852

I have asked the agency for a prompt reply, but please bear in mind that it may take some time to look thoroughly into the concerns you raised. If you have any questions after reviewing the agency's response, you may write to the address listed above.

I appreciate your patience and hope that your situation is resolved satisfactorily.

Sincerely yours,



Alice J. Pushkar
Director of Correspondence
for the First Lady

THE WHITE HOUSE

Helen - NRC ^{old}
Could this be sent
to whom ever oversees
nuclear regulatory
stuff? — so that
Mr. Orban will get a
letter?

We have no record
of receiving his
previous letters.

Thanks

Alex

Plan to restart nuke plant strongly opposed by residents, politicians

DAVID NOVICH
The Journal News

CORTLANDT — Angry residents and members of the state's congressional delegation told federal regulators yesterday that Indian Point 2 should not reopen until the outdated and unsafe steam generators are replaced with new equipment.

The strong opposition, expressed at a public hearing by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, was directed at a plan by Consolidated Edison Co. to restart the troubled nuclear power plant using four repaired generators before the end of the year.

According to the proposal, Con Ed would begin replacing the steam generators by the end of the year. Residents in the area are concerned by this because it was a generator leak that caused the plant's first emergency alert Feb. 15.



Associated Press file photo

The containment dome of Indian Point 2 in Buchanan.

"They should trash that old machine," said Bobby Lawlor, 51, of Cortlandt Manor. "We can't wait until more things go, because next time it could be dangerous."

Rep. Sue Kelly, R-Katonah,

said the NRC and Con Ed had not told the public everything about the plant's safety, leading many residents to distrust the company and the federal officials.

A Con Ed memo obtained last week by The Journal News said workers at the plant had to contend with dozens of equipment and organizational failures during the early hours of the Feb. 15 leak. Con Ed also was blamed by the NRC earlier this year for doing a sloppy job of inspecting the steam generator tubes in 1997.

"This community will not accept anything short of full public disclosure of all the information related to the safety of the plant," Kelly said. "And we will not accept this plant being restarted without new

Please see PLANT, 5A

Plan to restart nuke plant opposed

PLANT, from 1A

steam generators." Rep. Benjamin Gilman, R-Greenville, said he would call for a congressional hearing into the safety of the facility with Rep. Dan Burton of Indiana, chair of the House Government Reform Committee, if the NRC allowed it to reopen without replacement of the steam generators and better emergency and safety procedures.

"This community will not accept anything short of full public disclosure of all the information related to the safety of the plant. ... And we will not accept this plant being restarted without new steam generators."

Rep. Sue Kelly, R-Katonah

"The proper maintenance of the Indian Point facilities is vital to the safety and welfare of millions of citizens," Gilman said. "It's about time that the NRC and Con Ed open their eyes and ears and listen to the concerns of the citizens of the Hudson Valley."

U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer, Rep. Nita Lowey, D-Harrison, and local officials also called for the replacement of the generators.

Many who attended yesterday's meeting said they wanted the plant shut permanently.

"The steam generator is a symptom of a greater problem," said Michelle Riddell, a New Paltz resident and co-president of Safe Legacy, a safe energy group. "That we have a Chernobyl on the Hudson. What technology has an evacuation plan for five counties?"

**Why should the Indian Point nuclear
power plants be shut down?
by Mark Jacobs**

**Both plants are run with profit placed before
safety.**

1. The February 15, 2000, accident at Indian Point 2 (IP2) in which radioactive steam was released into the environment was caused by faulty tubes in one of the plant's steam generators. Seven other nuclear units in the United States had Westinghouse Model 44 steam generators. All of the operating nuclear power plants in the United States originally equipped with Westinghouse Model 44 steam generators have replaced them with different steam generators, except for Indian Point 2. The New York Power Authority (NYPA) replaced the same model steam generators in Indian Point 3 (IP3) in 1989, even though IP3 is a newer plant. At least 14 lawsuits were brought against Westinghouse because of these faulty steam generators. The risk is severe: an NRC report stated "...if more than 15 tubes rupture

during a main steam line break, the system response could lead to core melting [April, 1996, NRC Job Code E8238]. There are even replacement steam generators at the IP2 site, which Con Edison refuses to install. If safety were Con Edison's priority, the steam generators, which have on average ten percent of their tubes removed from service and have many other tubes with crack indications, would be replaced immediately. However, Con Edison does not plan to make the repair until 2004.

2. In the fall/winter of 1999 when IP3 was last refueled, NYPA attempted to refuel in record time. NYPA set and met its financial goal of refueling in 40 days, the shortest in the history of the plant. On the other hand, NYPA also set a goal of limiting worker

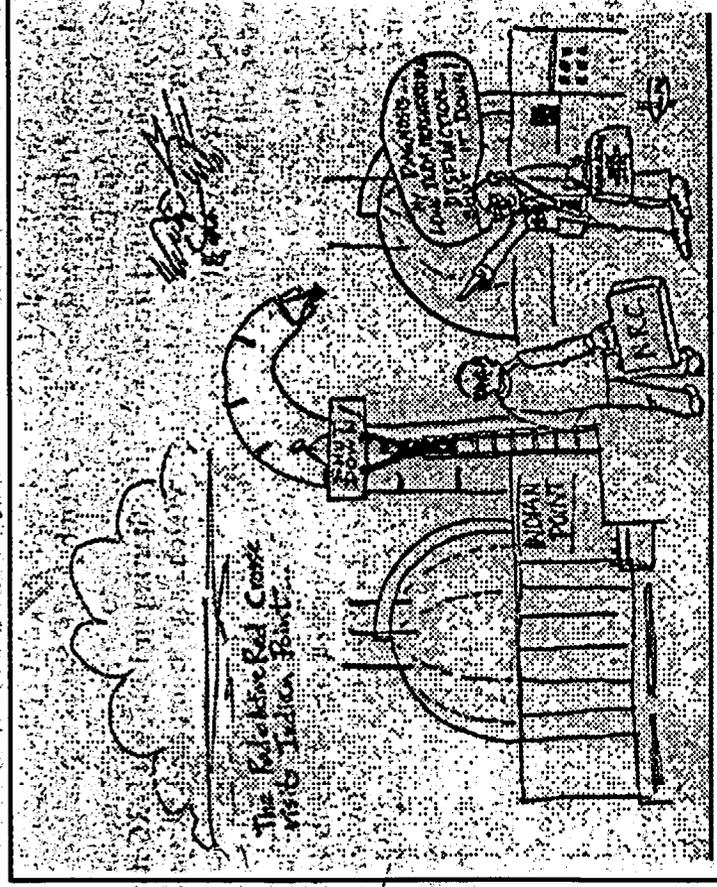
contaminations to 99. A Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) report stated that more than a dozen workers were contaminated as the direct result of "a conscious choice to relax some of the protective clothing requirements [December, 1999, NRC Integrated Inspection Report No. 50-286/99-08]." At the same time that NYPA was able to portray an image of efficiency to prospective buyers, NYPA did not meet its safety goal and over 188 workers are contaminated, many in the facial area. The problems documented in the NRC inspection report suggest that NYPA violated both the spirit and the letter of the federal regulations intended to protect plant workers from excessive radiation exposure.

3. Both IP2 and IP3 are built on a fault line, the Ramapo Fault. The public relations people at the NRC, Power Authority and Con Edison will tell

you that there is no current seismic activity. At the same time, it is routine at the plants for equipment to be tied down in case of an earthquake. Prudence advises shutting down the plants before seismic activity causes a serious accident.

The area surrounding the plant could never be evacuated.

1. The evacuation plan in the case of a nuclear accident only covers a 10-mile radius of the plant. Any serious accident at the plants would require evacuation of a much larger area. Last year a bill was introduced into the State Assembly (A. 03465) sponsored by Thiele) directing the State Disaster Preparedness Commission to



prepare a report addressing emergency planning issues for areas of Long Island within a 50 mile distance of nuclear electric generating reactors at the Millstone facility located in Waterford, Connecticut. An analogous bill for the Indian Point area would include an evacuation plan for 8% of the total population of the entire country, since it would have to cover all of Manhattan. To anyone who has driven on our roads during rush hour, it is obvious that even evacuating the area within a 10-mile radius of the plant would be impossible; not to mention evacuating New York City.

2. Above and beyond the impossible traffic problem, the evacuation plan for the plants would never work. It calls for bus drivers to continue to work during a nuclear meltdown and to drive towards an irradiated area in order to pick up children and deposit them at reception centers. In

addition, it requires parents NOT to drive to school to pick up their children. These and many other aspects of the plan make it impractical.

Radiation emitted from the plants on a weekly basis are a serious health concern.

1. "Low-level" radiation is emitted from Indian Points 2 and 3 on a weekly basis. The public relations people for the NRC, Power Authority and Con Edison argue that these are safe levels. New research conducted by the Radiation and Public Health Project shows that significant amounts of Strontium-90 which are emitted from the plants are being stored in our bodies. These emissions are a significant factor in the high cancer rates in Westchester and Rockland Counties.

2. The Indian Point 2 and 3 reactors have had a poor operating record since their startup in the 1970s. They have been closed about 43% of the time, and have rendered water and breast milk 10 times as radioactive as the normal average. A recent analysis shows that when radioactive releases from the reactors increase, local childhood cancer increases (and conversely, when one decreases, the other falls as well). A medical journal article to be published in late March of 2000 shows that disease and death rates for infants living near reactors plunged immediately after closing [Improvements in Local Infant Health after Nuclear Power Reactor Closing].

There is no responsible oversight for the companies that operate the plants.

1. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is supposed to be the watchdog of the nuclear industry. In practice, it serves as the lap dog of the industry: namely, it serves to protect industry interests. A federal investigation concluded that the chairman of the NRC provided a Massachusetts congressman with "inaccurate and misleading" information when the congressman raised questions about special treatment of the nuclear industry. The incident is further evidence that the NRC is growing cozier with the industry at the expense of the public. U.S. Rep. Edward J. Markey serves on the Energy and Power

Subcommittee which was looking into allegations that, in preparing a proposed rule change, the NRC had given an industry group – the Nuclear Energy Institute – a chance to review a draft of the proposed change before it ever gave the public access. In his strongly-worded letter to the current commission chairman, Markey states: "I find it troubling when the NRC provides preferential access to industry representatives. I find it completely unacceptable when the NRC compounds that poor judgment by misleading a member of Congress."

2. Starting in 1985, the NRC maintained a "Watch List" to improve its methods for assessing nuclear power plant safety after three accidents proved that the previous reactor oversight process was failing to maintain safety at U.S. reactors. IP3 was on this list from 1993 to 1997. The U.S. General Accounting Office pointed out that the "NRC was slow in placing plants on the Watch List," and that the "NRC has not taken aggressive enforcement action to force licensees to fix their long-standing safety problems on a timely basis." Instead of responsibly responding to these concerns, the NRC has altogether wiped out the "Watch List," which was long the bane of the nuclear industry.

3. On February 9, 2000, the NRC approved a new plan under which the number of inspectors at nuclear plants across the country will be cut by about three dozen inspectors - approximately 20 percent of the on-site inspection force. This type of reduction certainly did not come from citizen concern.

The risks far outweigh any benefits the plants provide.

1. In 1985, the NRC estimated that the crude cumulative probability of a severe core melt accident in the next twenty years was 45%. According to an NRC and Sandia Study in 1982 [Impact of a Meltdown at Nuclear Plant: Consequences of Reactor Accident (CRAC-2) Report], a meltdown at IP2 would result in 59,000 deaths in the first year and at IP3 would result in 64,000 deaths in the first year. Many more people would die from radiation exposure in subsequent

years. In addition, over 140,000 people would be injured from a meltdown at either plant. Nuclear electric power production is certainly not worth this level of death and destruction.

2. A meltdown at either reactor could send the United States into an economic depression. The same report stated that the property damage (in 1982 dollars) for a meltdown at IP2 would be about \$274 billion and at Indian Point 3 would be about \$314 billion. Economic expenses such as the cost of providing health care to the affected population, all onsite costs, litigation costs, direct costs of health effects, and indirect costs are not included in these figures. The 1988 Price-Anderson Amendments Act limited liability for a nuclear meltdown to \$560 million dollars. In the case of a serious accident at Indian Point, the local citizens would end up footing the bill for the extra \$273 - \$313 billion dollars. In addition, the land we live on, the water we drink, and the food we eat could become permanently uninhabitable, undrinkable and uneatable; not to mention that our homes, schools and businesses could become uninhabitable and unusable. ♦



Fred and Carol Schminke warn the public
Demonstration at Croton Train Station, April 18, 2000

A series of rallies, educational events, lobbying visits, and public meetings have resulted from the February 15 accident at the Indian Point II nuclear power plant. The following article provides an important update about the work of closing down Indian Point.

Indian Point by Marilyn Elie

The recent Alert at Indian Point has triggered much anxiety and increased activism on a topic that has been dormant for years. County and local officials are now looking at the operations of Indian Point 2 with a critical eye. Many were offended that they were not notified of the Alert. Con Ed has been extremely apologetic about not notifying everyone and is seeking to set the notification plan as the context for the public dialog.

It is easy and cheap to fix the notification plan. It is neither easy nor cheap to replace four steam generators. The Union of Concerned Scientists, Pace Energy Project and Public Citizen have filed a petition with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission asking that this be done. In the past the NRC has declined this role saying that it is a business decision on the part of the utility. So much for regulation and public safety!

WESPAC is still sponsoring a postcard campaign to County Executive Spano calling for the most comprehensive test possible, a vertical slice inspection for the faulty generator. The postcard also asks that the evacuation plan be reviewed. Call 914-682-0488 and they will send you some. Calling your local elected official and expressing your concern or writing your own letter to Spano is still the most effective action you can take.

County officials have a great deal of authority over the evacuation plan. People in the Shoreham area came to a consensus that their evacuation plan was unrealistic. They elected people to office with the same view. That's what kept the plant from going on line. The evacuation plan for the area around Indian Point is equally unrealistic. It is critical that local officials hear from hundreds of citizens on this issue.

The silent vigil at the gates of the plant on March 18 was attended by about 140 people. Many were new and promised to come back for the next vigil. Silent meant that there were no speeches, a nice change actually. Valerie Courreges organized the vigil and she felt it was something that has gone on past the point where words are effective. Perhaps she is correct.

A local artist created a series of large block prints about life near a nuclear power plant. They were mounted on 20 foot poles and created a stunning effect. Many people brought their own signs and posters. The only thing missing was music. After the vigil people lingered for cake, coffee and conversation in small groups under a beautiful March sky.

The best way to stay up to date on this issue is to subscribe to the Westchester Citizens Awareness Network Listserv. E-mail Elie@highlands.com to be added to the list. ❖

One problem with nuclear power plants is that they produce radioactive waste, which we have no way to dispose of. This article describes attempts to recycle radioactive scrap metal into consumer products.

Too Hot to Handle by Larry Siegel

It's possible you haven't heard about this little bit of insanity. After all, Project Censored voted it as one of the top ten underreported stories of 1998. In a story that appeared in the *Westchester County Weekly* in April of 1999 summarizing the top ten censored stories of 1998, one of the stories was entitled "Nuclear Spoons" by Anne-Marie Cusac. The story originally appeared in the October 1998 issue of *The Progressive*. The *Weekly* summarized the article as follows:

"The Department of Energy, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the radioactive scrap metal industry are calling for standards for 'decontaminated' radioactive metal. The current standards are already lax enough to allow low levels of radioactivity in items as

intimate as spoons, dental fillings, and IUDs." According to the NRC's own reports, the proposed standards could cause 100,000 additional cancer fatalities a year. In the meantime, 'hot metal' is being shipped to other countries, much of it a byproduct from the petrochemical industry.

In 1996 China had to stop an incoming shipment of 78 tons of radioactive scrap metal that was 30 times more radioactive than China's safety limits allowed. Over 1,500 residential apartments in Taiwan have been identified as 'hot.' As early as the 1980's, radioactive gold started showing up in jewelry in New York. At least 14 people developed finger cancer from contaminated gold rings. Several required amputation of parts of their hands.

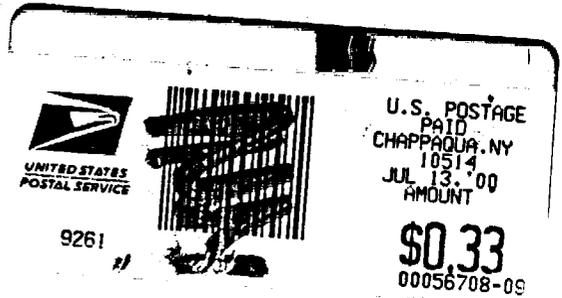
Recent evidence has been uncovered that illegal trafficking in 'hot metal' from the former Soviet Union is becoming big business."

The current issue of *The Nuclear Monitor*, the newsletter of the Nuclear Information & Resource Service (NIRS), reports that the Department of Energy (DOE) will hold off on the sale--and subsequent recycling--of some 6,000 tons of radioactive nickel from the decommissioning of the Oak Ridge uranium plant. However, NIRS points out that the DOE will allow the sale and recycling of some 120,000 tons of contaminated metals from Oak Ridge. NIRS goes on to point out the following in its newsletter:

"The difference is that the 6,000 tons of nickel are volumetrically-contaminated - meaning that the radioactive contamination is spread throughout the material - while the other metals are surface-contaminated, meaning that the radiation is only on the surface of the metals. While it is considered easier to decontaminate surface-contaminated metals, it is virtually impossible to clean them entirely; some residual radiation inevitably will remain. The DOE declined to permanently ban the recycling of the volumetrically contaminated nickel, saying only that it would wait to receive NRC standards on unrestricted release of contaminated materials.



Ms. Judith Ordan
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