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To: "U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (E-mail)" <MillstoneEIS@nrc.gov>
Date: Wed, Mar 2, 2005 1:56 PM
Subject: Town of Southold Official Comments to DEIS

I am forwarding from the Town Attorney's Office of the Town of Southold the official and written comments submitted by Supervisor Joshua Y. Horton in response and objection to the draft DEIS. Thank you.
<<Millstone letter.rtf>>

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OFFICIAL COMMENTS OF THE TOWN OF SOUTHOLD
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March 2, 2005

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Chief, Rules and Directives Branch
Division of Administrative Services
Office of Administration
Mailstop T-6D 59
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

RE: Objections to DEIS, Millstone Power Station Units 2 and 3

To Whom It May Concern:

I am Supervisor of the Town of Southold, the easternmost town on the North Fork of Long Island, located on a narrow peninsula directly opposite the Millstone plant across the Long Island Sound. On January 11, 2005, I appeared and made comments on the record on behalf of the residents of the Town of Southold at the public hearing on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the proposed renewal of the operating licenses for the Millstone Power Station, Units 2 and 3. Those comments stand; these written comments serve as supplemental objections to the renewal of those licenses in the absence of the due consideration for the safety of the affected nearby Long Island residents.

Furthermore, I hereby join in the request of other parties, including, without limitation, the Connecticut Coalition Against Millstone, for an extension of time in which to submit written comments due to the failure of the NRC to make available for review relevant documents such as the transcript of the January 11, 2005 hearing.

In the first instance, I object that the Town of Southold was given no notice whatsoever of the "scoping process" that was apparently held in this purportedly public environmental review procedure. It is precisely because we were not included in this process, and not afforded the opportunity to "identify the significant issues to be analyzed in depth", that critical issue of the safety of Long Island residents has been completely omitted from the environmental review.

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This safety issue falls squarely under the topic of severe accident mitigation, which the DEIS is mandated to analyze in detail. However, completely omitted from all review was the topic of an evacuation plan for the residents of Southold Town or elsewhere on eastern Long Island. The reason for such omission is simple; no such plan exists, nor has one ever been studied or even considered. The geography of Long Island creates an extremely dangerous situation for those residents in the case of a severe accident at Millstone. At the very end of a narrow strip of land, there is only one direction for these residents to travel in the case of an emergency - West. There is, in some cases, only one road on which to travel - New York State Route 25 in the event of a Millstone-induced emergency, Southold residents will be unaccounted for by the NRC. By the time Southold residents evacuate and reach the mainland of Long Island, we will be lined up on the Long Island Expressway behind the literally millions of other Long Island residents who have the same one and only direction to travel. This is a "natural recipe for a manmade disaster" that must be avoided.

To the extent that the drafters of DEIS seek to avoid creating an evacuation plan for the Town of Southold and eastern Long Island on the purported grounds that federal regulations only require such plans to do so within a 10 mile radius, they should and must consider the extreme circumstances that are present. The North Fork of Long Island is directly across the Long Island Sound. Strong prevailing winds blow across the water directly to our shores. We are the first affected residents to the south of this plant. To say that we are beyond the affected area is just wrong and cannot be the basis for a proper EIS. With that knowledge, I believe it is imperative that the NRC expand the scope of its evacuation planning to include the residents of the Town of Southold and other affected areas of eastern Long Island.

Clearly, as far as safety of affected residents is concerned, the environmental review process has not yet begun. Since this is a matter of federal concern, and which is the subject of federal regulation, it is crucial that the NRC seek and heed the input of the federal elective officials in the surrounding areas for their input regarding the concerns of their constituents. The NRC must, therefore, seek formal input from the Senators and Representatives in New York as well as Connecticut.

Furthermore, the NRC must appropriate funding and conduct a proper study for the evacuation of eastern Long Island residents, which should then be included as part of the DEIS, and subject to public input, at a forum Long Island residents can attend - on Long Island. The DEIS must not, and cannot move forward until these crucial matters are properly considered and integrated into the document.

Very truly yours,

Joshua Y. Horton
Supervisor

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JYH/k