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60-3-347,286(2206)

Westchester Peoples Action Coalition, Inc.
255 Grove Street
White Plains, New York 10601
914/682-0488

February 13, 1980

J. Ahearne, Chairman
U. S. N. R. C.
Washington, D. C. 20555

Dear Commissioner Ahearne:

I am one of the people who spoke to you in the public comment period of the meeting several weeks ago, in which you heard and discussed Harold Denton's recommendations with respect to the Union of Concerned Scientists' petition about Indian Point.

Those of us who constitute an ad hoc coalition for the tri-state area surrounding Indian Point who were present and spoke at that meeting, and who, incidentally, were the same people who had an extended meeting with Mr. Denton and his staff people a week prior to your meeting, are deeply concerned about the fate of the UCS petition and the issues raised in it. We understand that the Federal Register will shortly be issued calling for public comment on the Denton recommendations, the question of adjudicatory hearings on the UCS position and so on. We, of course, will be responding swiftly to that request for public comment and we hope it will be helpful and useful to you, as much as it is vital to us who live in the shadow of those plants. We understand, too, that IP III has--or is about to be--reopened. We certainly had hoped that while the issues of safety and siting were being studied further that the plants could be kept shut. It seemed both appropriate and fortuitous, from our viewpoint, that they (IP II and III) were both down at the time of the meeting to discuss the suspension and we consider it unfortunate that it was found desirable, by you and your commissioners, to allow reopening at this time. However, we are welcoming the opportunity for further dialogue through the public comment request.

At the same time, we would be very grateful if we were given the opportunity to talk with you personally and we are willing to make another trip down from the New York area if you will set up an appointment with us.

In all probability, at such a meeting, in addition to myself, we can expect Joan Holt of NYPIRG, Charles Scheiner of WESPAC and SHAD, Dean Corren of the Greater NY Energy Council, Lorna Salzman of Friends of the Earth and possibly Larry Bogart of Friends of the Hudson.

I hope you are recovering from your flu and I will call you on Monday, unless you are able to call me at WESPAC 914-682-0488.

8003170099

G

No. 79-3285

Logging Date 12/10/79

NRC SECRETARIAT

TO: Commissioner _____ Date _____
 Exec. Dir./Oper. _____ Gen. Counsel _____
 Cong. Liaison _____ Solicitor _____
 Public Affairs _____ Secretary _____

Incoming: Elizabeth Holtzman, Rep
 From: _____

To: Chairman Hendrie Date 12/6/79

Subject: urges NRC to begin proceedings to consider petition filed by USC req the decommissioning of Indian Pt & the suspension of Oper at 2 & 3 pending resolution of safety issues

Prepare reply for signature of:

Chairman _____ Date due Comm: 17 Dec
 Commissioner _____
 EDO, GC, CL, SOL, PA, SECY
 Signature block omitted

Return original of incoming with response

- For direct reply*
- For appropriate action
- For information
- For recommendation

Handled by: EDG
 Date: 12/10/79
 Time: 3:45

Remarks: Cpy to: Chm, RF, OCA to Ack

For the Commission: Billie

*Send three (3) copies of reply to Secy Mail Facility

ELIZABETH HOLTZMAN
16TH DISTRICT, BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

COMMITTEES:
JUDICIARY
CHAIRWOMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON
IMMIGRATION, REFUGEES, AND
INTERNATIONAL LAW
BUDGET
CHAIRWOMAN, TASK FORCE ON STATE
AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

December 6, 1979

Joseph M. Hendrie
Chairman
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Chairman Hendrie:

I am writing to urge that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission immediately begin formal proceedings to consider the petition filed by the Union of Concerned Scientists on September 17, 1979 requesting the decommissioning of Indian Point Unit 1 and the suspension of operations at Units 2 and 3 pending a resolution of safety issues.

The location of the Indian Point facility has always been a cause for concern. It is less than 30 miles north of New York City and 20 million people -- almost 10 percent of the population of the country -- live within 60 miles of the plant. Because of the impossibility of evacuating a population of this size, the consequences of a serious accident at the facility would be catastrophic. Indeed, in October a senior official of the NRC testified that locating a nuclear power plant at Indian Point was "insane."

In the spring I held a series of hearings in New York City to investigate the consequences of the continued operation of the Indian Point plants. Witnesses emphasized the serious siting problems. The plants not only are located in the most densely-populated metropolitan area in the eastern United States, but are also located near the Ramapo fault. Experts testified that there is a 5-11% chance that there will be an earthquake beyond what the plant has been built to withstand.

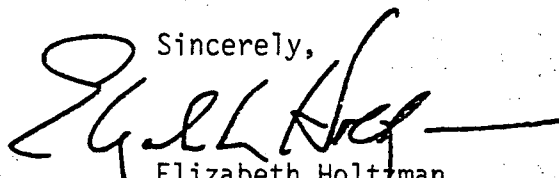
In addition, witnesses stressed the serious safety deficiencies that are also raised in the petition filed by the Union of Concerned Scientists. Unit 2 lacks many important safety features that were required on Unit No. 3. There are other critical safety problems at both plants. Witnesses stressed that neither plant actually meets current NRC standards. Nevertheless, the Commissioner has refused to require "backfitting" of these plants to bring them up to current safety standards.

*This is related
to a pending
2.206
petition*

The UCS petition also discusses the problem of unresolved "generic" safety problems. According to the petition, more than half of the 133 unresolved safety issues identified by the NRC in its January, 1978 report to Congress are present in the type of plants at Indian Point. Although these problems would bar these plants from getting operating licenses today, they apparently have not caused the Commission to review the licenses and take appropriate action.

These facts indicate that the continuing operation of the Indian Point facility may pose a serious hazard to the public's health and safety. It is the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's responsibility to protect the public against such hazards and to insure that the operation of any nuclear facility is consistent with the public welfare. I therefore urge the Commission to begin proceedings to consider the petition filed by the Union of Concerned Scientists, giving adequate opportunity for the presentation of testimony and evidence by interested parties. Finally, I urge that the Commission must take all steps necessary to protect the public.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth Holtzman", with a horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the signature.

Elizabeth Holtzman
Member of Congress

EH:jmj

BROOKLYN OFFICE:
1428 FLATBUSH AVENUE
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PHONE (212) 859-9111

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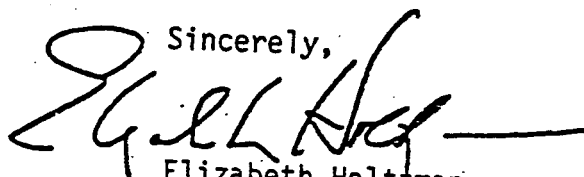
Exp. Part
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Comm. Copy

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Sincerely,



Elizabeth Holtzman
Member of Congress

:jnj

S. WILLIAM GREEN
18TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

COMMITTEES:
BANKING, FINANCE AND
URBAN AFFAIRS

SUBCOMMITTEES:
HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
ECONOMIC STABILIZATION
GENERAL OVERSIGHT AND RENEGOTIATION
SELECT COMMITTEE ON AGING

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

February 4, 1980

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J. Cook
Central Files

30-3

2/4/80

Chairman John F. Ahearne
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
1717 H Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Chairman Ahearne:

It is my understanding that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission will meet on Tuesday, February 5 to consider problems with siting of nuclear power plants and will give particular attention to the Indian Point plant in New York State. I have been exceptionally concerned about the safety considerations of nuclear energy for some time and I commend the Commission for granting this hearing to the people of New York. The recent earthquake near Indian Point makes increased attention to safety at the facility all the more urgent and calls into question the reasonableness of Indian Point as a site for a nuclear power plant.

I have been advised that several public groups representing various interests in New York have been given time to address the Commission and I urge you and your colleagues to give the most serious consideration to their concerns. It seems to me that sufficient evidence already exists to indicate that we need a basic revision of our siting policies and criteria. At the same time, I recognize that the plant is a substantial source of reasonably priced power for the consumers of my State and that closing the facility immediately would result in increases in costs which would have to be absorbed by the consumer and which would make New York less competitive in attracting industry.

Finally, I would recommend to you that the order of the Tuesday hearing be reversed, so that the Commission staff gives its briefing in the morning and the public appears in the afternoon. I agree with the public representatives that this would be preferable in order that they may comment upon and react to the staff presentation, as well as giving their own testimony.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

Bill Green

S. William Green
Member of Congress

SWG: jc

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