Committee To End Radiological Hazards
166 Second Avenue
New York, New York 10003

Mary Hays Weik
Secretary
GR 7-5935

Mr. W.B. McCool, Secretary
U.S. Atomic Energy Commission
Washington, D.C. 20545

Regarding: My Request for a Public Hearing on the AEC's Determination to Resume Construction on Con-Edison's Nuclear Reactor #3 at Indian Point

DOCKET NO: 50-286

Dear Sir:

Thank you for sending me the Commission's Memorandum and Order regarding my request of Dec.4/71 - erroneously stated (see Staff's Answer, page 1) - as Dec. 16/71 in the Memo - for a Public Hearing on the matter named above.

I shall add the Memo and Order to the documents I already have on the case: the Discussion and Findings of Nov.24/71 by the Division of Reactor Licensing; the Regulatory Staff's Answer to my first request for a Hearing; and the Dec.17/71 letter to the AEC by Con-Ed's lawyers, LeBoeuf, Lamb, Leiby & MacRae.

I am glad to have a complete file on this disgraceful proceeding, which shows so clearly the Commission's attempt to force through a resumption of construction on Reactor #3 at Indian Point, before the full NEPA environmental review required by law had been carried out.

Yours very truly,

Mary Hays Weik

Mary Hays Weik

AUG 1 1972

Copies sent to:

LeBoeuf, Lamb, Leiby & MacRae
Regulatory Staff of the AEC
Mr. Stanley T. Robinson, Jr.
And Interested Congressmen and Citizens

(Copy of June 16/72 letter to AEC Regarding Its Refusal of Request for Hearing)

The Great Atomic Fraud

XI Indian Point-Showdown For Nuclear Power?

by Mary Hays Weik

The first privately-owned atomic power plant in America - at Indian Point on the Hudson, 24 miles above New York City - seemed to have every point on its side, when it began operation in 1962. Heavily subsidized by U.S. funds, its costly nuclear fuel a gift from the government and most of its huge public liability risk backed by government guaranty, its owner, Consolidated Edison of N.Y., numbered on its Board of Trustees a former U.S. Secretary of Defense, the President of Columbia University, and the Chairmen of four of America's top corporations. At its Construction Hearing in a Washington suburb on Dec. 7, 1961, only one citizen appeared in protest - a young Brooklyn N.Y. physics teacher, Guy Torre, who warned of the serious hazards the plant involved. No other scientist came to Torre's support. With only one opposing witness, the construction permit was quickly granted.

But the plant was jinxed from the start, plagued by accidents, and shut down for 20 of its first 48 months. That these accidents have resulted in frequent releases of abnormal amounts of radioactive wastes to air and water, has been common knowledge in engineering circles - though never publicly admitted. In 1964 and '65, Beta levels in the Hudson's water below the plant jumped to many times the state average. Since then, monitoring figures on plant emissions have been increasingly scanty and long-delayed.

The fact was, the original Indian Point plant was only a trial start, planned as the first opening wedge for a series of much larger atomic reactors. In 1966, Indian Point reactor II, 4 times as big as No. I, was launched at a federal hearing held at Buchanan's brand-new firehouse, attended by scores of engineers and publicity men from Con-Edison and Westinghouse, the plant's builder - and, except for Buchanan's jubilant mayor, by not one citizen of the surrounding community! Its construction license was therefore a pushover. (Its operating license has not yet been achieved.) But 3 years later, in 1969, the construction license for a third Indian Point atomic reactor, whose hearing began in the High School auditorium of the village of Montrose, a mile or so south of the atomic plant, found rising citizen opposition. I took part in this hearing as a citizen intervenor.

The Montrose Catastrophe

At the end of the first morning's session, I went outdoors to find an eating-place. A local resident, who had been at the hearing, invited me to have lunch with her; and as we drove to her Montrose home, she told me of the current wave of anxiety among women who lived in a small area of Montrose downwind to the tall exhaust chimney of the Indian Point plant. The reason? An unusual number of cancer cases cropping up there. The remark stuck in my mind. I asked the location of the part of Montrose she had mentioned; and a few days after, wishing to see some official proof, I drove with her to the Town and County offices where local deaths were registered. We found the women clerks in the offices already knew of the cancer outbreak in Montrose. There was an undercurrent of fear and anxiety in their voices, which I understood when I saw the death certificates with the doctors' diagnoses: for the majority of those named on the certificates were women too - family women in their 30's and early 40's, as were many of the clerks.

That afternoon we collected the records of 17 Montrose citizens who had died of cancer in the seven years since the plant was built. Their homes had been in the Montrose section directly downwind to the atomic plant: several blocks of private houses holding less than 500 people. I checked with longtime local residents and with the U.S. Meteorological Bureau, and found that the prevailing wind in this section - from the northwest, following the mountainous bend in the Hudson River - would indeed blow the fumes of the Indian Point plant directly toward the Montrose area named. This brought to my mind a government report I had recently seen, published by the U.S. Science & Technology Office in Washington ("Considerations Affecting Steam Power Plant Site Selection," Feb/69). I looked up a copy, and found a diagram on page 126 showing the typical path taken by a power plant's cloud of released gases, as it traveled horizontally through the air to "a distance of from 1/2 to 2 miles" where it was "very rapidly dispersed towards the ground". - And I remembered that Montrose lay a little more than a mile southeast of Indian Point . . .

Introduction of the new evidence of the 17 Montrose cancer deaths met with complete silence at the next day's hearing. In no time at all, a battery of refuting arguments was brought into play by Con-Edison. The testimony of a new witness quickly shifted the prevailing wind from northwest to northeast! Soon new reports from local health departments gerrymandered and confused the borders of the Montrose area, to include a much larger adjacent section, and so dilute its accusing cancer figures. Both State and County health departments disclaimed any local reason whatever for anxiety . . . But I was struck by one fact that turned up a year later in a State health department report - "Review of Mortality Statistics in the Northwest Section of Westchester County," by Dr. Burnett of the Bureau of Cancer Control (Feb/70). For "Table VII-C" of this report showed irrefutably that in the section of Cortlandt Town southeast (downwind) of the Indian Point plant - containing Montrose and Croton-on-Hudson - where during the years 1957 to 1961, not one case of Brain Cancer had been reported - in the period from 1963 to 1967, following the atomic plant's start in '62, 10 deaths from Brain Cancer alone were on record.

In the summer of 1970, an energetic group of women from the local "Citizens' Committee For the Protection of the Environment," headed by Irene Dickinson and Jean Mulcahy, made a house-to-house survey of 315 families in the same general area I had written about in "The Montrose Catastrophe" in 1969, and found in addition to the 17 cancer cases I had reported, 24 more cancer cases and 6 serious cases of Birth Defects! The Montrose record remains therefore highly disturbing. Interest has been aroused in these facts, not only in other sections of America, but in many other countries overseas where nuclear power plants are built or have been proposed. For the Montrose study seems to be the only one in existence where factual, statistical evidence shows the tragic effect an atomic power plant can have on the health of an adjoining community.

Soon another reactor hearing will be underway for Indian Point, with 3 more giant reactors scheduled to follow. The Indian Point plant has long been a leader in atomic trends: Now governments and atomic industry are watching to see what local citizens decide to do. Shall this dangerous and polluting plant be allowed to remain, to hazard the lives of people of surrounding areas? Or shall Indian Point I, with its history of accident and pollution, be closed at last as community conscience dictates - its contaminated structure dismantled and physically removed, with an order that no other atomic reactor shall ever again be located on this spot? Only citizens of courage and action can supply the answer.

(Mrs. Weik heads the Committee To End Radiological Hazards, of New York City.)

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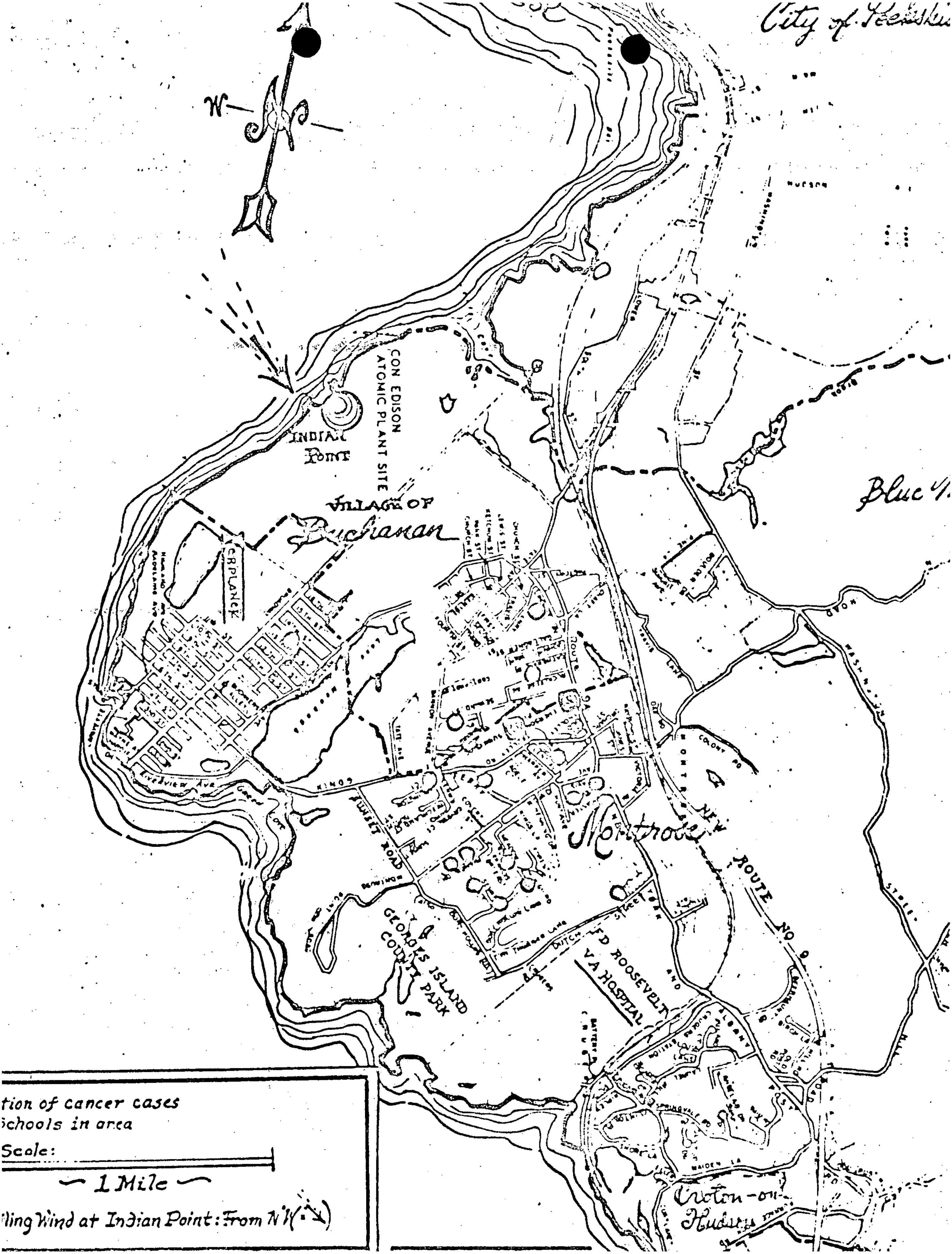

City of
CON EDISON ATOMIC PLANT SITE
INDIAN Point
VILLAGE OF
Buchanan
Montrose
ROUTE NO 9
ST GEORGES ISLAND COUNTY PARK
F D ROOSEVELT VA HOSPITAL
Croton-on-Hudson
tion of cancer cases
Schools in area
Scale:
1 Mile
ling Wind at Indian Point: From N W

Cancer and Leukemia Rise Around Indian Point

Committee Chief Notes Spurt In Mortality Near Nuclear Plant

by Mary Hays Weik

A significant new report has just been issued by the Committee To End Radiological Hazards of New York City, on health conditions around the Indian Point atomic plant. The report shows percentage of increase in deaths by Brain and Breast Cancers and Leukemia in the Cortlandt Town area directly surrounding the atomic plant, during the 5 years 1963-67, after the plant began to operate in August '62, as compared with the 5 years, 1957-61, just before its start. Included population figures for 1960 and 1965 show that cancer increase has far outstripped population growth.

The report is based on figures contained in the N.Y. State Health Dept. report, "Review of Mortality Statistics In the Northwestern Section of Westchester County." The State report is a curious document. It was published shortly after this writer revealed, as a citizen intervenor at the 1969 Indian Point Hearing an unusual number of Cancer Deaths in an area of Montrose downwind to the atomic plant. The State report shows an obvious intention to confuse and mislead the public; for the local map it includes so confuses the boundaries of the area involved in the Montrose cancer deaths as to make difficult a localized study of the problem.

Neither State nor County Health Department seems worried by the situation shown by their own figures. I was surprised to receive a "personal copy" of the report from State Commissioner of Health Dr. HOLLIS S. INGRAHAM, who had refused to honor my citizen's subpoena to testify at the 1969 Indian Point Hearings. In a letter to the AEC sent me with the report, Dr. Ingraham said: "We find no evidence of increase in . . . cancer mortality in the vicinity of Indian Point;" and DR. DONALD R. REED, President of the Westchester County Board of Health, in a letter to a local citizen listing figures which amounted to an increase of 22% in MONTROSE and an increase of 150% in BUCHANAN, wrote: "These figures would indicate to me that the cancer deaths have not increased in the villages of Buchanan or Montrose(!)."

The latest (1971) Rand-McNally Commercial Atlas shows Montrose population as 2200. But the State report cited submerges the Montrose village figure in a vague total, numbering 22,000, called the "Rest of Cortlandt Town." (This greatly dilutes, of course, the Montrose cancer mortalities.) Yet local records show that 3 out of the 4 brain cancer deaths reported in 1963-67 for this Cortlandt area of 22,000 were actually registered from the Montrose section I described in "The Montrose Catastrophe" - population, less than 500!

Unfortunately (for them), the people who prepared the delusive State report made one false step: In making their report, they revealed local statistics not available to the general public or reported in "U. S. Vital Statistics" (because the communities involved are too small for individual mention). In other words, the report brought into the open statistics heretofore available only to the two Health Departments. These figures happen to be most significant.

The cancer deaths shown in the New York committee's statement (taken from Tables VII and Table VII A of the State "Review of N W Westchester County" cited above) though damning as evidence, would appear to be small in number. They will certainly be labeled as such and called "unimportant" by AEC and Con-Edison attorneys. But this is far from true, as any honest statistician knows. For:

1) By the State figures, Peekskill, Buchanan, and Croton-on-Hudson are now implicated in the Indian Point cancer problem. (What about other - unnamed - Westchester communities?)

2) In 11 out of 12 community situations named, an unbroken increase of cancer deaths is shown. In the 12th, Peekskill, the number of brain cancers remained the same in the two periods covered. Yet, even there, unreported 1968-71 figures may now have changed the picture.

3) If such an increase could occur with only the 265-megawatt Indian Point I reactor in operation what would result with the addition of the 873-meg. Reactor II — 4 times as large as Indian Point I?

4) If such an increase could occur with only Indian Point I's "Pressurized Water" 265-meg. reactor, imagine the effect of adding, as planned, Reactors III, IV and V (of 1100-meg. each) all of "Boiling Water" type - since airborne radioactive releases from this type of reactor are known to be enormously larger. . What will be the effect downwind then?

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NCER DEATH RECORD IN "CORTLANDT TOWN" AREA SURROUNDING INDIAN POINT, NY, ATOMIC PLANT, BEFORE & AFTER PLANT'S START IN 1962

From Official Mortality Statistics in 1969 New York State Dept. of Health Publication, Review of Mortality Statistics in Northeastern Section of Westchester County - Table: VIIIA: "Number of Deaths (Brain and Breast Cancers & Leukemia) for Cortlandt Town (Including) Peekskill City, 1957 - 1967" ***

r e a s	CANCER of BRAIN and Nervous System (193)			BREAST CANCER WHO International Code 170)			LEUKEMIA (International Code 204)			Population		
	'57-'61	'63-'67	% Increase	'57-'61	'63-'67	% Increase	'57-'61	'63-'67	% Increase	1960	1965	Increase
ekskill	4	4	--	20	25	25 %	4	10	150 %	18,737	18,504	(1% drop)
oton-on-Hudson	-	6	600 %	7	10	43 %	3	6	100 %	6,812	6,941	Inc: 2%
chanan	-	1	100 %	-	2	200 %	-	1	100 %	2,019	2,163	" 7%
st of Cortlandt Town ncluding MONTROSE)	-	4 *	400 %	4	12	200 %	2	5	150 %	17,505	** 22,231	" 27%
TAL Cortlandt Town	4	15	275 %	31	49	58 %	9	22	144 %	45,073	49,844	" 11%

* Three of these 4 deaths were recorded for a small section (c. 500 population) of MONTROSE directly downwind to the Indian Point atomic plant.

** MONTROSE total population was only 2200 in 1970 (Rand McNally 1971 Commercial Atlas & Marketing Guide).

*** Conclusions issued by State and County Health Boards are in curious contradiction to their own records: In spite of the increases shown in the N.Y.State Health Dept. figures reported above, State Health Commissioner HOLLIS S. INGRAHAM, in his presentation letter to the U.S.Atomic Energy Commission of March 23, 1970 accompanying the above report, said: "We find no evidence of an increase in . . cancer mortality in the vicinity of Indian Point;" and Dr. DONALD R. REED, President of the Westchester County Board of Health, in a March 18, 1970 letter answering a local citizen's inquiry, in which Dr. REED himself cited a rise in All Cancer Death figures in the 4 years after Indian Point's start (1963-1966) which, compared to the 4 years preceding its start (1958-1961), amounted to an increase of 22% in MONTROSE and an increase of 150% in BUCHANAN, wrote: "These figures would indicate to me that the cancer deaths have not increased in the villages of Buchanan or Montrose (!)."

BILINGUAL

QUOTES

FROM: Committee To Ed. Radiological Hazards
166 Second Ave. New York, NY 10003, USA
Mary Hays Weik, Secretary (GR 7-5935)

ATOMIC PLANT RELEASES CANNOT BE FAIRLY COMPARED TO NATURAL BACKGROUND RADIATION

(English translation):

"A nuclear power plant releases radioactivity to its environment through its chimney and cooling-water. Even in undisturbed normal operation, the chimney emits radioactive gases and particulate matter which are distributed through the surroundings.

"Company 'experts' claim that the amount released is minimal. They calculate high plant releases by comparing them with natural background radiation. Actually, the effect of radioactive material taken into the body, as is that from the plant's chimney and cooling-water, through inhalation, or by way of the food chain and drinking-water, is significantly higher (than company figures show), and impossible to measure exactly.

"If a (radioactive) particle merely lies on the ground, then its effect is minimal although its radiation may be dangerously high. If the particle, however, is deposited on a mucous membrane by inhalation or ingestion, or if it settles in an organ due to its chemical nature, then as a result of contact radiation, its effect will be increased to the square of its ownvalue and give an extraordinarily strong dose of radiation to its direct surroundings, leading to death of the cells contacted or severe damage to those it touches.

"Especially effective in this connection are Alpha and Beta rays, whose effect would otherwise be screened out by the atmosphere. These inner effects cannot be controlled from without. Thus numbers of Cancers and other damages can arise; above all, genetic damage and disease if the reproductive organs are affected. Moreover, this radioactive matter stored up in the body increases with time, and the damages build up . . ."

(From Der Skandal Atomkraftwerk by Ing. KARL NOWAK, Vienna physicist and editor of „Neue Physik", in an article in „Oberösterreich. Wochenpost," Austria)

(Original German):

„Ein Kernkraftwerk gibt über Schornstein und Kühlwasser Radioaktivität an die Umgebung ab. Der Schornstein auch im ungestörten Normalbetrieb laufend radioaktive Gase und Schwebstoffe ausstößt und in der Umgebung verteilt.

„Von den bezahlten ‚Experten' wird es so dargestellt, als sei das minimal. Man rechnet mit der erhöhten Umgebungsstrahlung und vergleicht sie mit der natürlichen Strahlenbelastung. Tatsächlich ist die Wirkung inkorporierter radioaktiver Stoffe, wie solche aus Schornstein und Kühlwasser über Atemluft, Nahrungskette und Trinkwasser in den Körper gelangen, ganz bedeutend höher und nicht exakt messbar.

„Liegt ein Staubkörnchen am Boden, so ist seine Wirkung minimal, mag es auch ein gefährlicher starker Strahler sein. Gelangt das Teilchen aber mit Atemluft oder Nahrung auf eine Schleimhaut oder wird es gar infolge seiner chemischen Beschaffenheit in ein Organ eingelagert so kann es infolge Kontaktbestrahlung, da die Wirkung mit dem abnehmenden Abstand quadratisch zunimmt, an seine unmittelbare Umgebung außerordentlich starke Strahlungsdosen abgeben und so sogar zu Nekrose (Zelltod) oder schweren Zellschäden Anlaß geben.

„Besonders wirksam sind dabei Alpha- und Betastrahler, deren Wirkung sonst durch die Luft abgeschirmt wird. Diese inneren Vorgänge sind von außen überhaupt nicht kontrollierbar. So können Krebsherde und andere Schädigungen entstehen, vor allem auch Erbschäden und Erbkrankheiten, soweit die Fortpflanzungsorgane beeinflußt werden. Auch speichern sich radioaktive Stoffe im Körper und die Schädigungen summieren sich . . "

FROM

Rep. Ogden R. Reid (N.Y.)

CONTROL NUMBER 4766

FILE LOCATION

DATE OF DOCUMENT 8/3/72

ACTION COMPLETION DEADLINE 8/22/72

TO

DiNunno

ACTION PROCESSING DATES

Acknowledged ______

Interim Report ______

Final ______

PREPARE FOR SIGNATURE OF:

______ Chairman

______ Director of Regulation

X Giambusso

DESCRIPTION Ltr [X] Original [ ] Copy [ ] Other

Encl cy ltr fm Mary Hays Weik to McCool re request for a public hearing on AEC's determination to resume construction of Indian Point 3 w/cys of articles re radiation hazards in the area

19819

REMARKS

REFERRED TO	DATE
Giambusso f/action	8/16/72

IS NOTIFICATION TO THE JCAE RECOMMENDED? ______ ______

Cys: PDR (50-286)

Docket Files

Copy sent PDR

Hearing

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DIRECTOR OF REGULATION
COMMUNICATIONS CONTROL

Form HQ-32 (6-70)
USAEC