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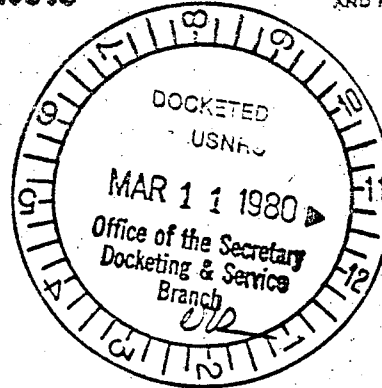
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

March 7, 1980



Mr. John F. Ahearn, Chairman
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

Dear Mr. Ahearn:

I am writing to express my deep concern for the manner in which the Nuclear Regulatory Commission responded to the petition submitted by the Union of Concerned Scientists, regarding the Indian Point Nuclear Power Plants.

There appears to have been very little effort on the part of the Commission to answer the points raised by the USC petition. Instead, the NRC staff, which was already considering certain safety improvements for Indian Point, worked out an agreement with the utilities on needed safety measures. As a result, the Commission gave approval to a safety plan which, in the final analysis, gave little consideration to the proposals recommended by the UCS.

In order to allow a fair airing of views, I feel that a full review of the UCS petition is in order. To this end, I urge the Commission to establish an Atomic Safety and Licensing Board in order to conduct adjudicatory hearings and compile a factual record on Indian Point. This procedure would allow testimony under oath, cross-examination, subpoenaing of documents and public participation. Once a factual record is available the NRC will be in a better position to decide if Indian Point can continue to operate without undue risk to the 15 million residents living within 50 miles of the plants.

I hope to hear from you in the near future regarding this matter of mutual concern.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation, and my best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

8005010348

Ben Rosenthal

3/10/...To OGC For Direct Reply...Suspense: March 20...Cpys to: Chm, RF, EDO, Docket, OCA to Ack...80-0462.