

THE COUNCIL  
OF  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

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S&D

MIRIAM FRIEDLANDER  
COUNCIL MEMBER, 2ND DISTRICT, MANHATTAN  
CITY HALL  
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10007  
566-1324

March 6, 1980

CHAIRWOMAN, SUB-COMMITTEE  
ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN  
MEMBER, COMMITTEES ON:  
GENERAL WELFARE  
CIVIL SERVICE & LABOR  
HOUSING & BUILDINGS  
GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

Mr. John Ahearne  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Ahearne:

As members of the New York City Council, we are deeply concerned with matters affecting the health and safety of our constituents. Accordingly, we have considerable interest in the decisions issued on February 11, 1980 by Harold Denton, Director of Nuclear Reactor Regulation with regard to Indian Point and the detailed petition submitted by the Union of Concerned Scientists.

While Director Denton's recommendations are a small step in implementing safety measures, they appear to be too little and over too long a period of time to assuage the fears of the residents of New York City who live within a fifty mile radius of Indian Point, and face an impossible evacuation situation. As indicated by N.R.C. Commissioner Gilinsky "the Commission is tip-toeing around its responsibilities when it should be confronting them directly".

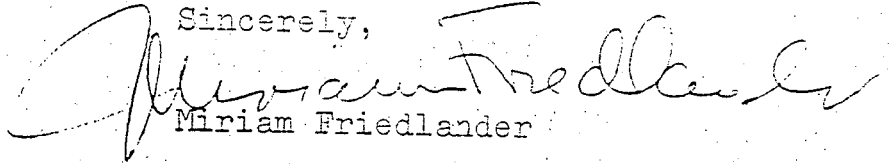
The N.R.C. staff estimates that Indian Point and Zion contribute forty percent of the nation's nuclear power plant accident risk. Therefore we have serious questions as to whether the Indian Point plant should remain operative while basic safety measures are not yet in place. According to Commissioner Gilinsky, based upon N.R.C. staff assessment there seems to be agreement that "Indian Point site would not be acceptable by today's standards".

Therefore we would urge: (1) that the Commission establish a safety and licensing board to conduct immediate formal hearings with subpoenaing of documents and public participation; (2) that one of the hearings take place in New York City; (3) that the N.R.C. commissioners, upon review of the factual record, decide whether the Indian Point plant can continue to operate with undue risk to the public; (4) that serious consideration be given to suspension of plant operations during the review and decision making process.

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We appreciate this opportunity to respond to your request for comments and look forward to participating in providing greater service and safety to our city.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Miriam Friedlander".

Miriam Friedlander

Also signed by Councilmembers:

Mary Codd  
Abraham G. Gerges  
Carol Greitzer  
Arthur J. Katzman  
Ruth W. Messinger  
Stanley E. Michels  
Antonio G. Olivieri  
Robert S. Steingut  
Henry J. Stern  
Jane B. Trichter