

March 19, 1987

1124 Jasmine Avenue
Ft. Pierce, Florida 33482
(305) 461-0771

Adm. Lando W. Zech, Jr.
Chairman
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

Dear Admiral Zech:

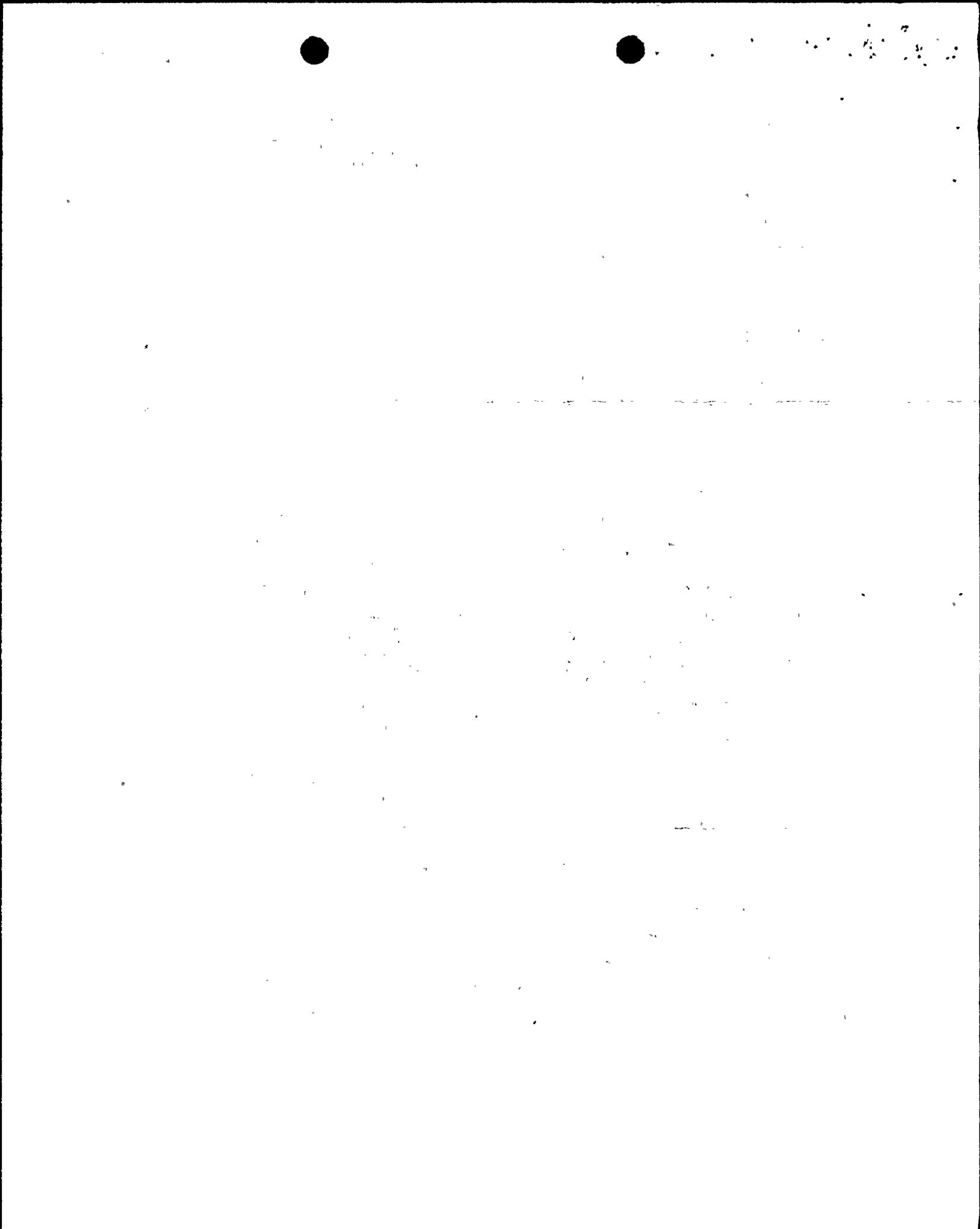
Thank you for attending the recent dedication of the operator training facility for St. Lucie I and II nuclear power plants. I understand it is a fine facility, and your taking the time to come down demonstrates an interest which encourages me to write to you.

I'm convinced that the evacuation plan required by NRC for St. Lucie I and II and accepted as satisfactory by FEMA is a disaster waiting to happen and getting worse daily. Beginning with the FP&L Draft Environmental Statement which projected zero population growth to the year 2000 on Hutchinson Island, site of the plants, and continuing to FEMA's acceptance of an evacuation route which would pile exiting island residents from St. Lucie County and Martin County over two inadequate Martin County bridges onto a boxed-in, two lane scenic highway with no right of way for expansion, down to the present St. Lucie County policy of permitting high density residential growth on the island while not planning for a bridge for twenty years, the "plan" is a pitiful attempt to meet emergency planning requirements.

Phil Rodi, the St. Lucie County Emergency Management Director, whom you met at the dedication, has protested publicly over the lack of adequate roadways

The highlighted adjectives in the enclosed article from Christian Science Monitor of Feb. 27, 1987, are the loosely quantitative words we find so difficult to deal with in many rulings on the safety of nuclear power plants. And, yes, I'm sure St. Lucie I and II are among plants whose evacuation plans have been judged "successfully tested." However, a test which includes only the personnel who work at the plant, but not the people who live in a probable evacuation area, can hardly be termed an evacuation test.

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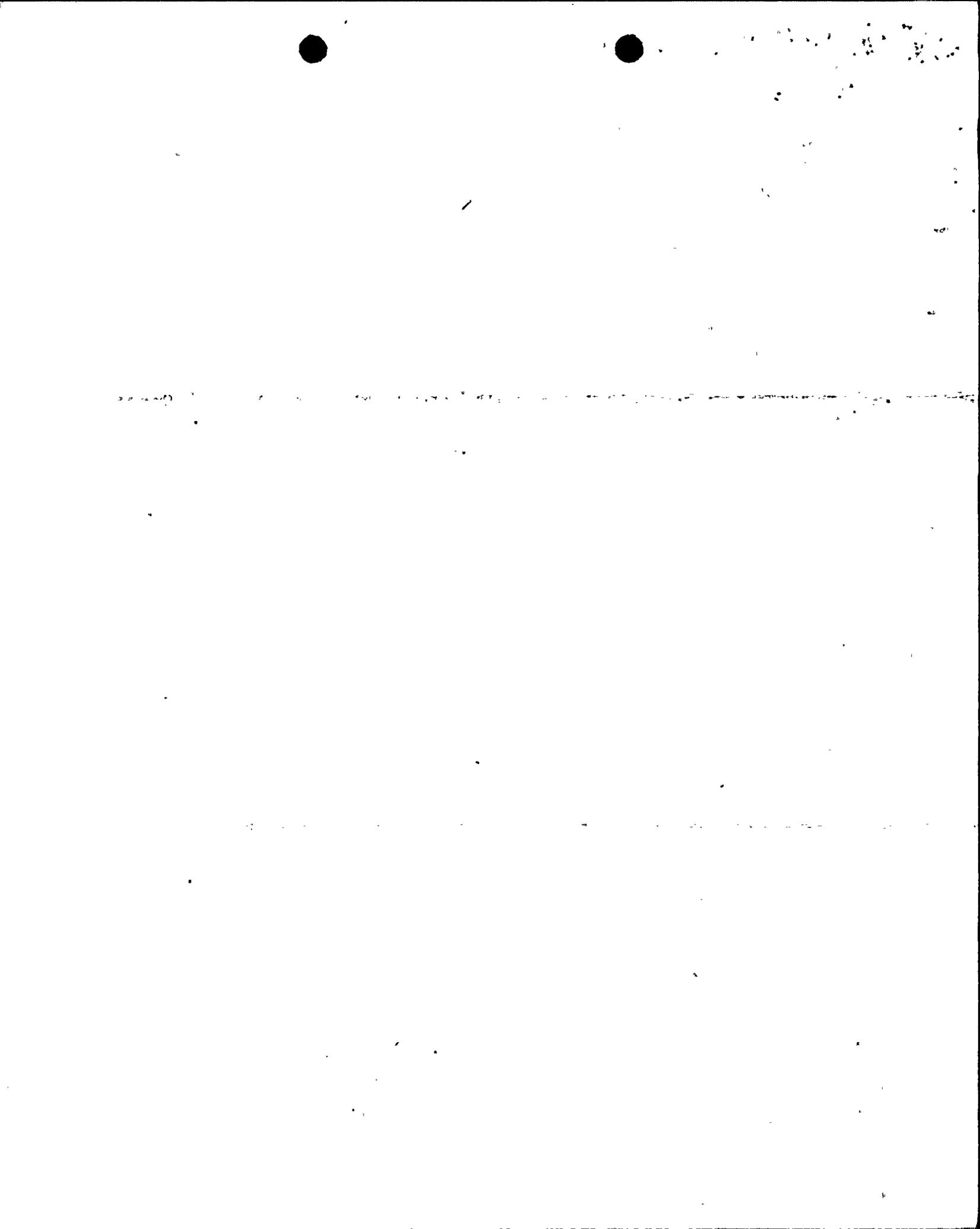
Since the local and state governments know of these evacuation problems, but seem reluctant to face reality and solve them, I am writing to ask if your agency should help.

Sincerely,

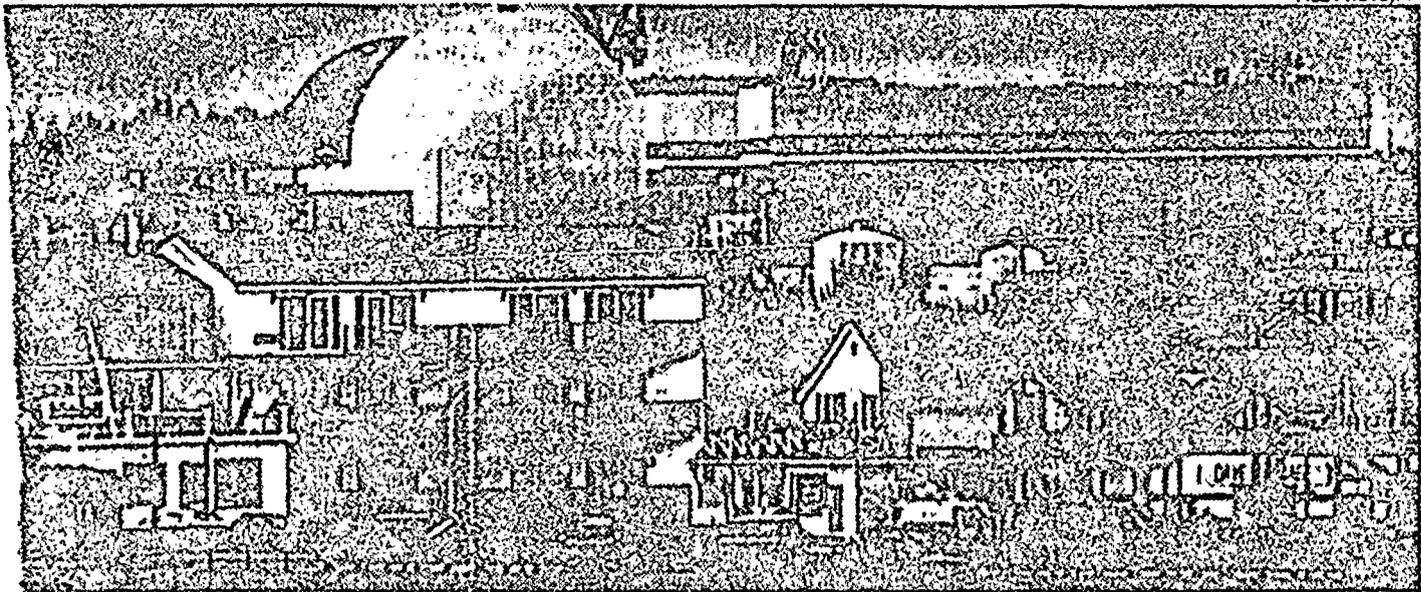
Betty Lou Wells

Betty Lou Wells

enc. C.S.Monitor article
cc: Phil Rodi



FILE PHOTO/AP



Seabrook nuclear plant, overlooking Hampton Beach resort in N.H., was completed in 1986 - but debate keeps it shut

NRC and states fight over A-plant evacuation plans

By Donald L. Rheem
Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor

Washington

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission and states are debating over emergency evacuation plans.

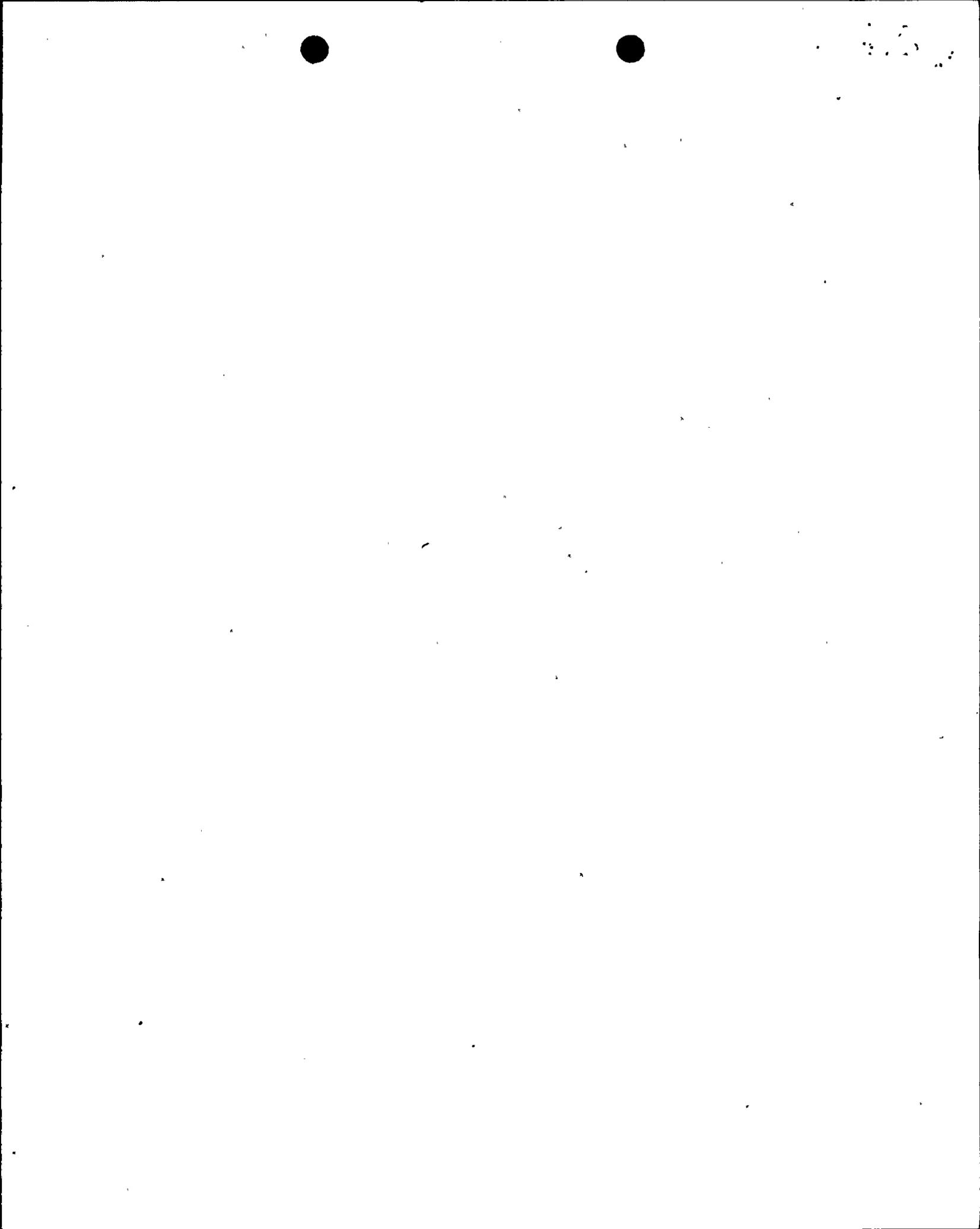
In a packed NRC hearing room earlier this week, NRC commissioners heard members of Congress and several governors

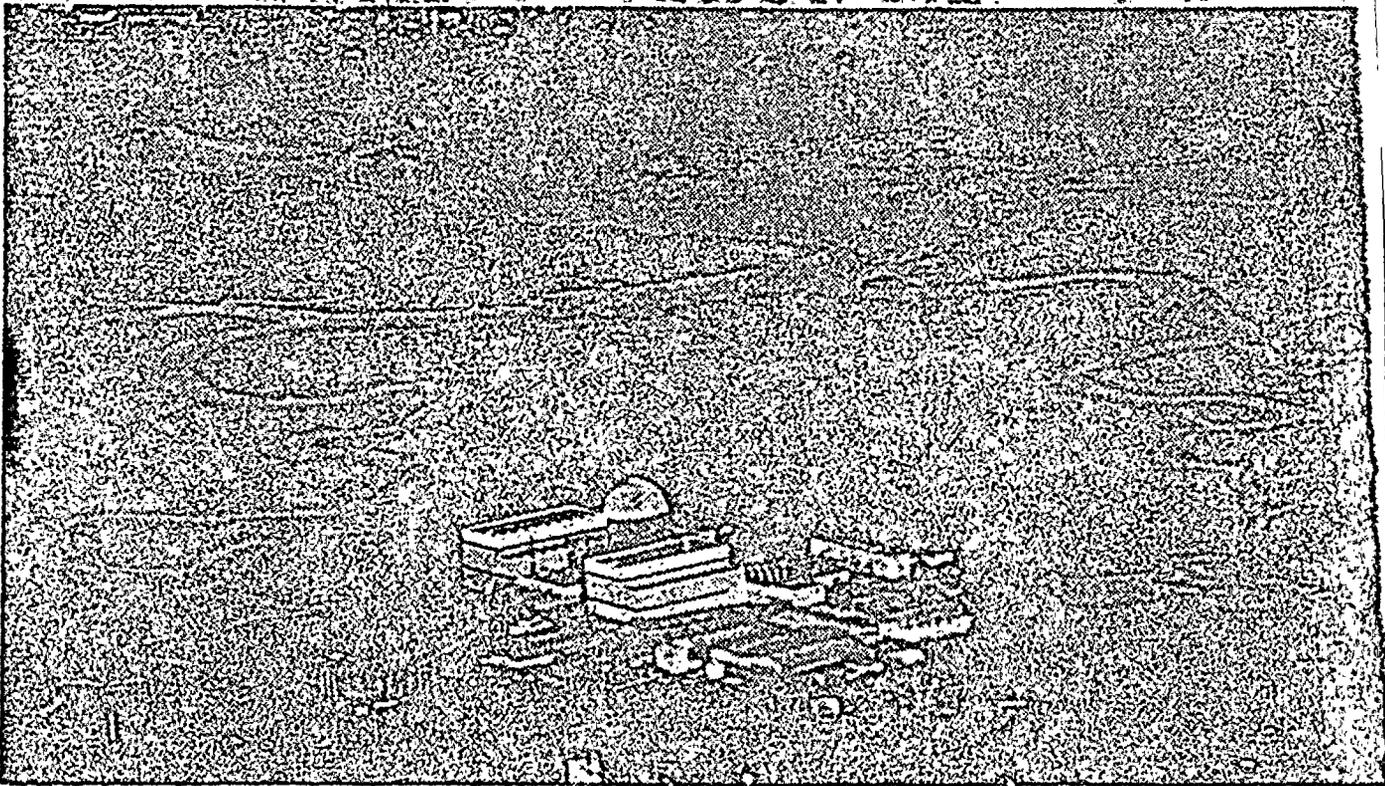
strongly oppose a proposed regulation that they claim would diminish the rights of state and local governments to protect public health and safety.

The issue centers on a regulation passed soon after the Three Mile Island (TMI) nuclear power plant accident.

After TMI, many officials and

Please see NUKE page 6





Aerial view of Seabrook: Massachusetts Gov. Dukakis (right), fighting plant startup, says emergency evacuation is im-

NUKE

from page 3

Residents were surprised to learn that there was no emergency plan to evacuate citizens. To remedy this shortcoming, Congress passed legislation requiring emergency planning for all nuclear power plants. Since any evacuation plan would involve state and local equipment and personnel, Congress made sure these officials would be involved in the plan itself.

Some state and local officials - including Govs. Mario Cuomo of New York and Michael Dukakis of Massachusetts - have refused to work with utilities in developing the plans in the hopes of killing specific power plants. The Shoreham plant

on Long Island and the Seabrook plant in New Hampshire are mostly completed, but their licensing has been held up by the governors' refusal to participate in planning.

The NRC would like to change the 1980 rule, allowing new nuclear facilities to begin operation even if local officials refuse to cooperate in a utility-drafted, NRC-approved plan.

Governor Cuomo testified at the NRC meeting Tuesday that the proposed rule change "violates the historical and constitutional responsibility of state governments to protect the health and safety of their citizens." He called the NRC's proposal "potentially dangerous," saying it "reduces concern for public safety to the

vanishing point."

NRC chairman Lando W. Zecl out that the commission has not whether it will act on the change suggested by NRC staff. A public meeting was simply an opportunity for the commission to hear the views of congressional and state officials.

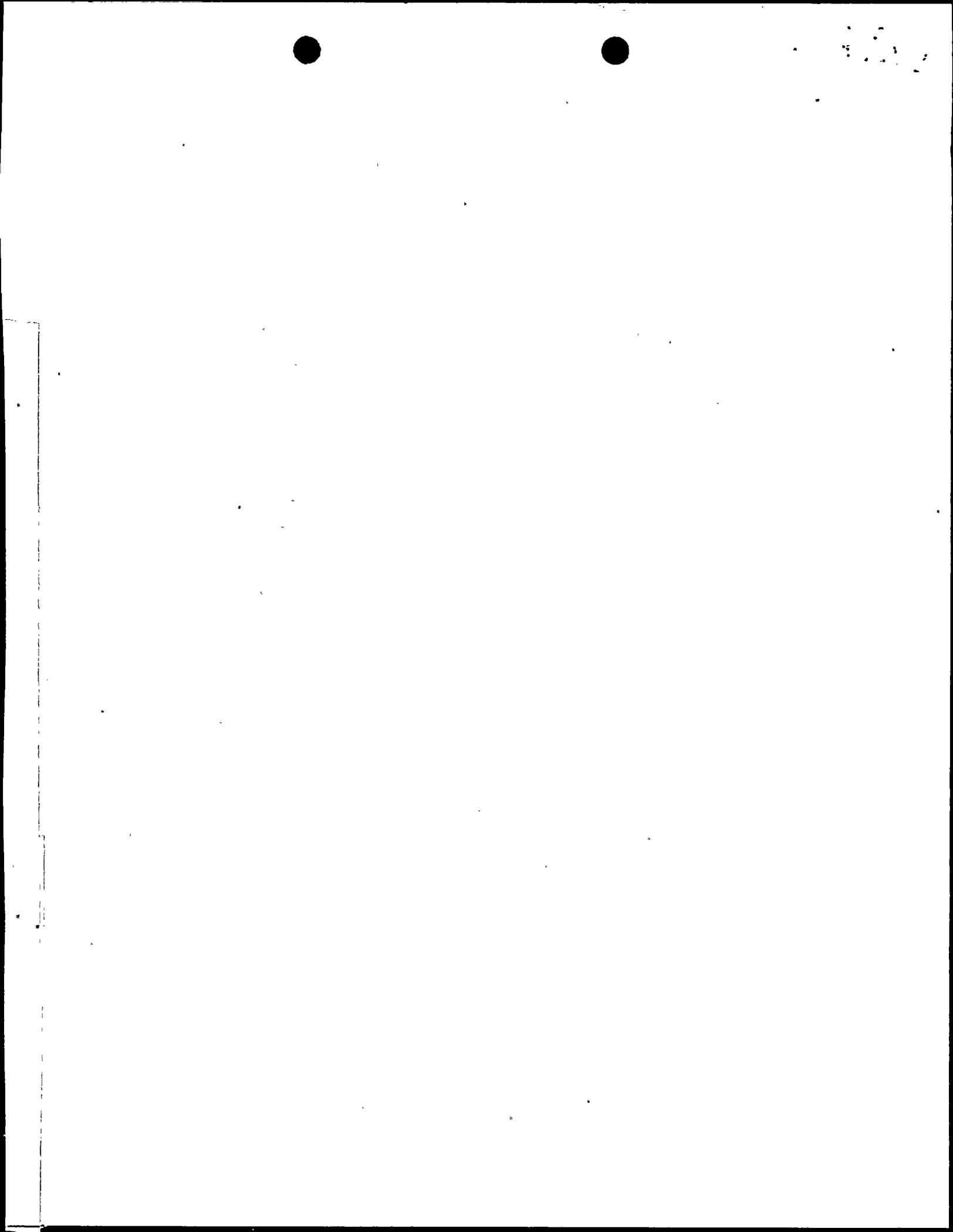
In an internal briefing document prepared by the NRC staff, several points were made to respond to the anticipated objections to the rule change.

- There is nothing in current emergency planning requirements that compels a state or local government to participate in such planning, so there is no infringement on, or invasion of, state or local laws, prerogatives, and responsibilities.

- The NRC presumes that local officials will use a utility's plan in an emergency - the commission does not expect utilities to assume police powers.

- The proposed change would not detract from the rights of citizens and local governments to a hearing in emergency planning.

Current NRC rules stipulate that a clear reactor cannot be issued a license to operate unless "there is reasonable assurance that adequate protective measures can and will be taken in the event of a radiological emergency." The rule further states that there must be "reasonable assurance that they can be implemented."





Since 1980, emergency plans have been completed and successfully tested at nearly every nuclear power plant site in the United States. But in a draft of the proposed rule change, the NRC complains that "in a few cases, state or local governments have not developed an emergency plan of their own or cooperated with the utility in developing one."

"Since state and local officials would have to carry out emergency plans, their refusal to cooperate with utilities throws enough doubt on the requirement that protective measures "will be taken" as to prevent the issuing of the plant's operating license."

The NRC did not intend to give state and local officials veto power on whether a plant - approved in all other aspects of the licensing procedure - could begin operation. When rules for emergency planning were drafted in 1980, the NRC assumed that public officials would work with the utility to develop acceptable alternatives if objections were raised.

Under the proposed change, if an emergency plan is opposed, then the utility must demonstrate to the NRC that the lack of cooperation is the only deficiency in the evacuation plan, that the utility has made a "good-faith and sustained" effort to get cooperation, that the plan compensates for the lack of cooperation, and that copies of the plan are given to all relevant government authorities.

According to one industry source, the NRC is expected to issue the new rule and let the courts or Congress decide the issue. "We expect the issue to go all the way to the Supreme Court," he said

NRC chief lauds FPL over plant

Ft. Pierce
By Peter Williams
News Tribune Writer

July 87

The chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission praised Florida Power & Light Co. for its operating record at the St. Lucie nuclear power plant Tuesday morning but cautioned corporate officials not to relax their efforts to improve safety.

Lando W. Zech Jr. visited the St. Lucie nuclear power plant on South Hutchinson Island to attend the dedication of a \$16 million training center. Later in the morning he flew back to his home in Falls Church, Va.

"I commend FPL on this investment, it's a wise investment," Zech said. "This (center) is a commitment that the industry has made. It is not an NRC program. You should never forget that training is a direct contributor toward safety.

"We at the NRC are very aware that St. Lucie has established records for both the U.S. and the world," he said. "You've got a wonderful record and I'm proud of it ... but don't slack up."

The new training center is just north of the two nuclear power plants.

"We would like to accept that challenge to remain on top," said Ken Harris, the site vice president for FPL.

The 55,820-square-foot two-story training building will house classrooms and a reactor control room simulator. Over the course of this year, FPL expects about 600 people will attend classes at the center.

The center is owned by FPL, but it's part of an industry-wide effort to improve training procedures. While the FPL training program at St. Lucie meets NRC standards, the FPL plant at Turkey Point has in the past come under fire.

The idea of a training center at both Turkey Point and St. Lucie has been in the works for about four years. The center at Turkey Point was dedicated on Monday.

"FPL started long before the industry committed itself," said Ken Strahm, the executive director for the National Academy for Nuclear Training.

The major part of the new center will be the simulator. It will be an exact replica of the inside of the control rooms of both St. Lucie Unit I and Unit II. Through the use of computers, it can duplicate about 15,000 different situations that an operator may face.

"When we get it installed, you could blindfold someone and bring them in here and you wouldn't know if you were in the real control room or the simulator," one company official said.

The simulator itself is expected to cost between \$8 million and \$10 million. It is being built by Canadian Aviation Electronics Ltd. in Montreal. FPL expects delivery in August.

Until then, FPL depends on a simulator in Windsor, Conn. Students enrolled in the reactor operator program must travel there to undergo the four weeks of simulator training they need to get a license. The same holds true for those who are already licensed but must take some simulator training each year.

About four dozen FPL employees, industry officials, public officials and representatives of the National Academy for Nuclear Training attended

the ceremony.

The academy is an accrediting agency for nuclear industry. Of the 10 categories of accreditation, FPL has completed work on four of them. The four deal with non-licensed operators, reactor operators, senior reactor operators and health physics technicians.

By the end of 1987, FPL officials said, they hope to be accredited in the other six areas — shift technical advisers,

chemistry technicians, instrument and control personnel, electrical maintenance workers, mechanical maintenance workers and site technical staff and managers.

The number of people on the training staff at St. Lucie has increased from 37 in early 1984 to 58 today. The number of students trained annually has increased from 60 in 1983 to a projected 600 this year.