

John Emshwiller writes in the Wall Street Journal today that nuclear power advocates will not only press Ronald Reagan for a strong, favorable statement about nuclear power development but for an overhaul of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. "The Commission's critics accuse it of having become a giant impediment to greater commercial use of atomic power," writes Emshwiller. "Industry officials complain, for example, that the Commission takes too long to issue licenses for new plants and that it changes safety rules constantly."

NEW YORK--Rockland County officials and residents expressed doubt at a meeting last week about the adequacy of emergency evacuation plans in the event of an accident at Indian Point. The doubts centered on a provision for full evacuation of the population within 10 miles of the plant in about four to 16 hours. New York Times, 12/14.

Editorially, the New York Times commented Sunday on the capability of Consolidated Edison to operate the Indian Point plant in light of the flooding accident last October. The Times notes that NRC investigators "lay blame for the accident primarily on Con Ed's management... (that) finding...undercuts Con Ed's contention that its customers should pay the \$800,000-a-day cost of replacement power...and the NRC report will offer grist to bolster environmentalists who think Indian Point should be shut down lest a truly serious accident occur." The Times also carried a short summary of the NRC proposing a \$210,000 fine against Con Ed in finding that the utility was at fault for the flooding of the Indian Point plant.

The Washington Post, in an editorial on the prospect of a nuclear waste bill passing at this session of Congress, says "Sen. Henry Jackson wishes to see defense wastes explicitly excluded. He is troubled by provisions in the pending legislation that give an enlarged role to the 50 states in accepting the siting of waste repositories...Compromises have been proposed. It does not, to put it mildly, look especially promising." 12/15.

MIDDLETOWN, PA--Metropolitan Edison says high radiation levels detected in water samples at Three Mile Island probably stem from decontamination efforts at the auxiliary building. Washington Post, 12/13.

In a letter to the editor to the Washington Star on the NRC "winning" third place in the 1980 "Doublespeak Award" contest, the NRC's Joseph Fouchard points out that the agency was cited "on the basis of a 4-year-old report to Congress as interpreted in a newsletter which was a year old. The sponsors neglected to mention this, although all the other 'honors' were accorded on the basis of activities in 1980."

The New York Times Sunday magazine carried a lengthy article on the Department of Energy's Nuclear Emergency Search Team (NEST) and its response to nuclear threats and nonterrorist assignments, such as charting radioactivity during the Three Mile Island accident.

The Washington Post Outlook section carried a proposal by Barbara Garson to the White House and the NRC to employ senior citizens in part-time work with nuclear wastes. 12/14.

A letter to the editor of the Washington Post Sunday Magazine questions the safety of Santa Claus's sleigh and the radioactivity of Rudolph's red nose. "How many millirems will penetrate the average household roof?" asks Henry Petroski, who teaches civil engineering at Duke University. 12/14.

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