



# WESTCHESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS

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Nunzio J. Palladino, Chairman  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D. C. 20555

PROG. & UTIL. Pkg. SD-247/286

Dear Chairman Palladino:

I do not pretend to be an expert in the field of nuclear energy but rather a concerned resident within the 10 mile radius of Indian Point and a member of the Westchester County Board of Legislators representing approximately 40,000 constituents within the 10 mile zone and a person with an opinion about the adequacy of the emergency evacuation plans for the nuclear plants in Buchanan.

Early in 1981 after the original evacuation plans were released, our Board had several legislative committee meetings to review the components of the plan proposed by the utilities and their consultants. At that point, there were many questions and concerns with the plans that had not been addressed such as:

How would all the necessary emergency personnel be trained and equipped? How would this be financed?

Would the designated reception centers be provided with adequate supplies for emergency use? Would the emergency planners provide the necessary supplies?

Would the county bus drivers commit to the job assigned to them by the planners?

Would the handicapped and the elderly homebound be identified and assigned protection services?

It is more than 24 months later and many 120 day clocks later and these and other questions are still being asked with no resolve in sight. I suppose at this point, we know there is and can never be a commitment by the bus drivers of the County to come into the evacuation area and perform their assigned job when their primary concern is to respond to their own individual family needs.

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In a resolution passed by the Town Board of Ossining on March 22, 1983, the Town States: "the emergency personnel in the Town of Ossining, as well as the County of Westchester, has not received an adequate number of safety devices to properly protect themselves in the event of an emergency ... and there has been and still remains a severe limitation for adequate communications between local, state and county police agencies in many communities throughout Westchester County and within the Counties in the 10 mile radius.

More than two years have lapsed since the people within the 10 mile radius have received an updated emergency plan through the mail. There is no evidence that Sr. Citizen programs in my community have been contacted in any significant or meaningful way to locate the frail elderly or the handicapped who would need emergency assistance. One cannot say that our emergency evacuation plans have been exemplary or realistic.

In order to determine the opinions of my constituents within the 10 mile radius and others in my district but outside the 10 miles, two random assessments were made - one, a written questionnaire to all constituents and one a telephone survey of 500 Westchester residents.

My questionnaire stated, "While the County does not regulate the Indian Point nuclear plants, it does monitor them and does play a role in emergency planning. Some people feel the plants are unsafe and uneconomical and should be closed. Others say they are not unsafe and point out that closure would raise electricity bills by about 10 percent." What is your opinion about Indian Point? From 405 returns, 51% said close Indian Point and 49% said keep Indian Point open.

Additionally, Roger Seasonwein Associates of New Rochelle agreed to conduct an opinion poll for the County of Westchester addressing many questions relating to Indian Point. 400 respondents lived outside the 10 mile zone and 100 respondents lived inside the 10 mile zone. When asked on the telephone if the plants should remain open or closed, 47% responded to close the plant, 47% to keep it open and 7% undecided. In another question about the increase in electric rates if the plants were to shut down, the majority of respondents (27%) thought the cost would go up 20%. 47% of the people questioned by phone believed the plant to be basically unsafe - with 45% suggesting it was safe. The strongest argument opposing the opening of the power plants from residents within the 10 mile radius (63%) was the belief that it was impossible to evacuate the Indian Point 10 mile radius in light of the numbers of people to be moved, the existing road network and the lack of protective equipment.

Respondants within the 10 mile radius stated:

The Emergency Booklet was received by 47% of those questioned  
45% of those responding yes has read or glanced at it  
31% of those responding yes have the booklet  
25% of those responding yes know where it is

When asked if they would follow a predesignated route in the event of an emergency, 31% responded yes and 69% responded no.

Of those knowing about a predesignated route, 56% stated they would leave the best way they knew how.

If there was an evacuation during school hours, 92% of the respondents were not aware of the reception center their child would be taken to.

The most significant figures from this opinion poll indicate that we have an Emergency Evacuation Plan that 63% of the Westchester population say is impossible to follow and a Plan where 69% of the residents in the 10 mile radius state they will not follow a predesignated route.

The only reason I hear for not closing the nuclear plants is purely economics. The week of April 18, 1983, was an enlightening week regarding the finances of the plant and the fiscal impact on utility customers. Last week we saw financial quotes of 18 billion dollars to 2.9 billion dollars, or a cost of \$38.50 per month projected by the utility to \$1 per month estimated by the opponents of the power plants. Later in the week, a panel of NRC experts concluded that the cost of alternative energy in the event of a shutdown would be 4 - 5.2 billion dollars - similar to the costs predicted by private consultants hired by the New York City Council. Far different from the costs projected by the utilities.

No doubt, my constituents and others in Westchester who based their decisions on how it will affect their pockets will reconsider their positions in light of this new information. I believe that peace of mind and the health and safety of our families is worth every dollar spent - especially with the knowledge that in the event of a nuclear emergency we will not be able to successfully evacuate the area nor could we ever then recoup our economic and health losses after such an incident.

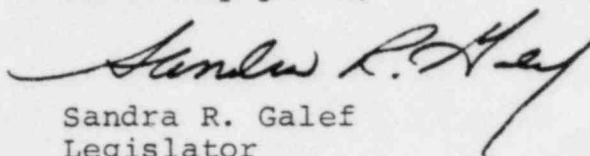
There is also an area of nuclear energy that we fail to address in many of our discussions - that is nuclear waste disposal. After speaking with an expert in the nuclear field and a strong proponent of nuclear energy, I was shocked to hear him express his deep concern over the nuclear waste dilemma. He even stated that until we resolve the question of how to dispose of waste, we should stop creating the waste. That was the strongest statement I ever heard from a supporter of nuclear energy.

I would like to conclude with a story told to me by a lovely and thoughtful woman living in Ossining, New York, now but who lived in Europe during WWII. She was a teacher during this period of history and was given specific instructions on how to evacuate her classroom during an emergency situation. In fact, she and her colleagues had several trial runs or drills to perfect the emergency evacuation plan. The teachers practiced driving their assigned students by car many miles from school into a safety zone. Then one day my friend heard the alarms and thought that this was a real emergency - not a drill. Instead of performing as she was instructed to and had rehearsed so many times, she, instead, did what we all probably do. She left her school, located her own children and fled in her car as quickly as possible.

This was a real story - a real human response to a plan on paper. We know that our emergency evacuation plans are not even real - not even workable - not even accepted by the Federal Emergency Management Agency as a valid plan. It seems clear to me that in addition to no contract with the private bus companies and no emergency support from Rockland County, that we have a plan representing a theory of words and not words of practicality. A plan has been developed which can not be implemented and serves only to attempt to pacify the public.

The risk is too much for us to bear. The facts suggest the plants should be closed immediately, I remain,

Sincerely yours,



Sandra R. Galef  
Legislator  
2nd District

SRG:ld  
Attachment

# questionnaire for 1982

The Westchester County Legislature is interested in your opinion, particularly now as the 1983 budget is being drawn up. Please take a few moments to answer the questions and mail them back. You can use the questionnaire as a self-mailer by folding it with my address on the outside, or you can use an envelope. If more than one voter is filling out this form, use a separate checkmark (✓) for each person.

1: Cutbacks in federal and state aid to local governments may force Westchester to cut back on certain services in order to keep taxes down. Please show your priorities for cutbacks, if necessary, by checking the appropriate box below.

|                               | Cut back | Cut only as last resort | Do not cut | No opinion |
|-------------------------------|----------|-------------------------|------------|------------|
| Public Safety Dept.           | 25%      | 29%                     | 46%        |            |
| Office for the Aging          | 23%      | 36%                     | 41%        |            |
| Bus System                    | 26%      | 34%                     | 40%        |            |
| Parks and Recreation          | 35%      | 35%                     | 27%        |            |
| Community College             | 34%      | 34%                     | 32%        |            |
| Veterans Services             | 39%      | 29%                     | 32%        |            |
| Consumer Protection           | 37%      | 33%                     | 20%        |            |
| Arts in Westchester           | 55%      | 29%                     | 16%        |            |
| Civil Legal Services for Poor | 38%      | 35%                     | 27%        |            |
| Mental Health Programs        | 20%      | 41%                     | 39%        |            |
| Alcohol/Drug Abuse Programs   | 22%      | 43%                     | 35%        |            |
| Neighborhood Health Centers   | 34%      | 36%                     | 30%        |            |
| Youth Bureau                  | 33%      | 34%                     | 28%        |            |
| Day Care                      | 32%      | 35%                     | 33%        |            |
| District Attorney             | 22%      | 37%                     | 41%        |            |
| County Medical Center         | 1%       | 3%                      | 42%        |            |

2: If it proves necessary to increase revenues, please indicate which of the following methods are preferable to you. If you favor more than one method, please number them in order of preference.

|                                    | Favor | Do not favor | No opinion |
|------------------------------------|-------|--------------|------------|
| Raise property tax                 | 11%   | 89%          |            |
| Institute Off Track Betting        | 2%    | 30%          |            |
| Institute real estate transfer tax | 37%   | 63%          |            |
| Institute hotel occupancy tax      | 83%   | 7%           |            |

3: The County is currently studying long-term development plans for the Playland Amusement Park in Rye. Please check the option that you favor.

Keep Playland as is 45% Expand amusement park and bring in more major rides 17% Dismantle amusement area but keep Playland as a park 38% No opinion \_\_\_\_\_

Should a waterfront hotel be built in conjunction with any of the above plans? Yes 40% No 60% No opinion \_\_\_\_\_

4: The nighttime flight curfew at the County Airport is currently under court challenge, and could face modification. Those living near the airport want the curfew because they say aircraft disturb their sleep. Others say that a 24-hour airport is needed for Westchester's economic health. How do you feel about the nighttime flight curfew, in effect from midnight to 7 a.m.?

Keep the curfew 58% Eliminate the curfew 42% No opinion \_\_\_\_\_

5: While the County does not regulate the Indian Point nuclear plants, it does monitor them and does play a role in emergency planning. Some people feel the plants are unsafe and uneconomical and should be closed. Others say they are not unsafe and point out that closure would raise electricity bills by about 10 percent. What is your opinion about Indian Point?

Close Indian Point 51% Keep Indian Point open 49% No opinion \_\_\_\_\_

6: This year budget cutbacks forced curtailment of the "Bicycle Sundays" program in which a portion of the Bronx River Parkway is closed to cars from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. each Sunday and opened to bicycle riders. Normally in effect all summer long, this year's curtailed program was not in effect during July and August. Each Bicycle Sunday costs the County \$1,200. How do you feel about this program?

Restore full program 23% Keep partial program 5% Eliminate program 72% No opinion \_\_\_\_\_

7: There has been a growing debate about future industrial and commercial development in Westchester. Many of Westchester's older downtowns have lost business while the semi-rural and less-populated portions of Westchester have experienced major growth. Some planners say the County should not discourage this trend. Other planners say the County should take measures to steer future development to downtown areas instead. How do you feel?

Continue present trend 26% Steer development to downtowns instead 74% No opinion \_\_\_\_\_

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WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Ossining has continuously cooperated with the efforts to promulgate a workable Emergency Plan for the potential of an incident at the Indian Point Nuclear Facility and

WHEREAS, emergency workers who are being trained have been instructed to wear on their person at least two safety devices for the recording of radiation such as a T.L.D. and a dosimeter and

WHEREAS, the emergency personnel in the Town of Ossining, as well as the County of Westchester, has not received an adequate number of safety devices to properly protect themselves in the event of an emergency and

WHEREAS, there has been and still remains a severe limitation for adequate radio communications between local, state and county police agencies in many communities throughout Westchester County and within the counties in the 10 mile radius and

WHEREAS, inadequate funding for the provision of these very basic requirements of a realistic and workable Safety Response Plan have not yet been provided, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Ossining requests that the Legislature of the State of New York provide immediate and adequate funding for emergency equipment to the communities within the ten mile area through a legislative act requiring additional contributions from the owners and operators of nuclear facilities and be it further

RESOLVED, that an audit of the million and half dollars provided by the utilities for emergency response be made public and that the formula used be changed so that the individual communities can be provided with enough dollars for protective equipment for all emergency personnel, including police, fire, ambulance and public works employees, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk send copies of this resolution to the Governor, the Speaker, the majority and minority leaders of the Legislature, the members of the Westchester delegation of the New York State Legislature, the members of the County Board of Legislators, Con Edison and P.A.S.N.Y.

Adopted: March 22, 1983