



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

Long Island

MAR 25 1982

~~The~~ Honorable Alfonse D'Amato
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator D'Amato:

This responds to your letter of February 19, 1982, wherein you forwarded a January 22, 1982 letter from Mr. Gregory J. Blass expressing his concern about evacuation planning in the environs of the Shoreham Nuclear Power Station.

The NRC considers it highly unlikely that evacuation would be required as a protective measure for the plume exposure pathway beyond the 10-mile Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ). This position is reflected in the enclosed NRC Policy Statement published in the Federal Register on October 23, 1979 (44 FR 61123), and is discussed in detail in a joint NRC/EPA Task Force Report NUREG-0396 (copy enclosed) which was endorsed by the Commission for use by State and local governments.

It is our understanding that the detailed evacuation plans currently under development for Suffolk County do not include the North and South Fork areas since they lie well beyond the 10-mile plume exposure EPZ. However, some consideration was given to the South Fork area in that planning for evacuation of persons within the 10-mile EPZ contemplates only minimum use of one of the principal east-west arteries (Sunrise Highway) with the consequence that this road will be accessible for persons wishing to leave the South Fork. As a matter of information, evacuation is only one of the various protective action strategies that could be taken in the event of a serious accident. In fact, for most of the serious low-probability events, we envision that sheltering would be the more desirable action from a risk-benefit viewpoint. Even for the most serious type of release, sheltering followed by a more leisurely relocation may be the optimum choice of protective measures. Here again, as in most natural disaster or accident situations, the actual measures to be taken at the time of the event will be influenced by the many variables that bear on the decision-making process. In the case of a nuclear power plant, such factors would include the release characteristics, meteorological conditions, operational time constraints, and the availability of shelter facilities.

Blass

MAR 25 1982

We appreciate having the opportunity to respond to the concern of Mr. Elass and hope that this information will be of value to him.

Sincerely,

~~William J. Dircks~~

William J. Dircks
Executive Director for Operations

Enclosures:

- 1. NPC Policy Statement
dtd. October 23, 1979
(44 FR 61123)
- 2. NUREG-0396
- 3. Incoming Letter

Distribution

- I&E Files
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