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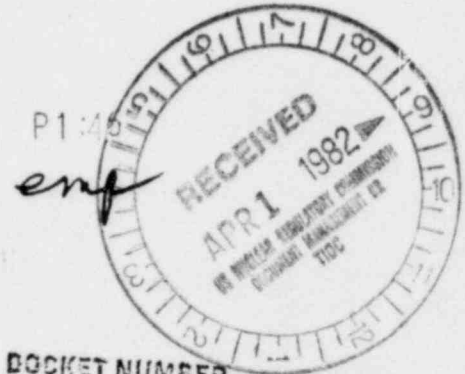
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

March 25, 1982

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The Honorable Nunzio J. Paladino
Chairman
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
1717 H Street NW
Washington D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Paladino,

On March 10, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Atomic Safety and Licensing Board set May 4th for the start of LILCO's four week final licensing hearing.

Unfortunately, this schedule is inadequate for a fair hearing and discussion of the Shoreham situation.

The people of Long Island, my constituency, and my family are my concerns. Their safety is, has been, and should continue to be the primary and fundamental issue. Anything less than a complete, thorough and unblinking examination of the critical issues involved in the licensing decision for Shoreham is intolerable.

There is absolutely no justification, economic or otherwise, for even the smallest compromise of public safety. And considering the age of the Shoreham plant and its critical components, the history of violations of quality assurance/quality control requirements documented during the NRC's own inspections, and the numerous management and construction problems documented in the Newsday investigation as well as the NRC's own investigations, the board's schedule should be reconsidered and revised.

It is my understanding that the limited schedule for the hearing may be due, in part, to pressure to meet LILCO's projected September 1982 fuel load date. Even disregarding the dubious accuracy of this estimate, such a projection should have no bearing on a hearing dealing with concerns as great as the safety and soundness of Shoreham.

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The public safety, and the public's perception of its safety, are at issue. Their safety and their peace of mind will best be served by a hearing which provides Suffolk County and interested citizens with the discovery time needed to litigate the contested issues and ensure that all issue preparation is adequate. Therefore, it is imperative that the board revise their schedule in consideration of these issues.

Sincerely,

THOMAS J. DOWNEY
Member of Congress

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