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April 5, 1982

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



Dear Mr. Paladino;

On March 10th the Nuclear Regulatory Commission set a May 4th date to commence its final licensing hearings concerning the LILCO nuclear facility at Shoreham, New York. The speed with which this hearing is proceeding is nothing short of outrageous!

We on Long Island know such a schedule operates against the best interests of the citizens of Suffolk County, who as intervenors believe the Nuclear Regulatory Commission is manipulating the situation to prevent our attorneys from having enough time to prepare a thorough case.

Aside from the above, I find the handling of the case by Judge Brenner lacking in objectivity. He will not admit any contention questioning the necessity of evacuation beyond ten miles. Unfortunately he is utilizing a scenario constructed for the advent of a low level accident. Evidence from California shows that evacuation should be carried out between eighteen and thirty-five miles from the plant, depending upon particular environmental and meteorological conditions. Other data contributes to the fact that evacuation must be considered beyond the ten mile limit. This comes from the high level accident which occurred at Three Mile Island.

What is the point of writing history or carrying on scientific inquiry, if we are never to profit from previous mistakes? Who's side is Judge Brenner on? For that matter who's side is the Nuclear Regulatory Agency Commission on, if they sent us this prize? Who can the people of Suffolk County trust?

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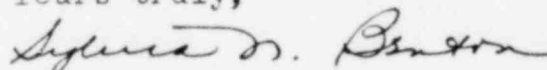
What about evacuation Mr. Paladino? How do the people on the north and south fork get off of Long Island? They can't pass the ridiculous ten mile circle around Shoreham. What happens to the people eleven miles west of the facility and those sixty miles further west in New York City who will all be heading off this island? Do you know the population of Queens and Brooklyn Counties Mr. Paladino?

Let's pretend the United States Government wanted to get us all off this 120 mile Long Island. Where would we be air lifted to? Albany? How many planes would it take? Do we have that many? Would there be showers in Albany where we would wash away our future malignancies?

Apart from the above fantasies, it is imperative that attention at these hearing be focused upon the many construction defects at the Shoreham plant. These have been made public by a series published by Newsday, last year. There must be a thorough physical inspection of this facility.

Mr. Paladino, you promised the American people you would take care of our interests and make sure the plants being licensed are safe. How about starting right now, right here at Shoreham?

Yours truly,



Sylvia N. Benton Ph.D.

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