

TESTIMONY OF WILLIAM G. BORGHARD, P.E.
COMMISSIONER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL FACILITIES

I am William G. Borghard the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Facilities for Westchester County, New York. The Department is responsible for the construction, maintenance and operation of County District Water and Wastewater Facilities. There are three County water districts and 13 wastewater districts. The facilities associated with these services include a waste treatment plant at Amawalk in the Town of Somers; seven wastewater treatment plants and 30 wastewater pumping stations.

Two of the wastewater plants and six of the wastewater pumping stations are within the 10 mile radius of the nuclear plants located at Buchanan, New York. They are the wastewater plant located in Ossining, New York on the Hudson River adjacent to the Ossining Correctional Facility, and the Peekskill Wastewater Plant located on Annsville Creek approximately 2,000 feet east of the Hudson River. Both of the plant discharges go into the Hudson River.

Each plant has three pumping stations within their contributing system. All of the facilities have stand-by generators which would automatically operate in case of power interruption. The regular operations include manning at the wastewater plants and daily inspection of the pumping station.

Although the generators would operate, there is need for an operator to physically check the engines, controls, and other

mechanical equipment. Further, at the point where the flow of wastewater enters these pumping stations and the plants there are bar screens to collect debris including rags and fibers. These need to be checked and sometimes manually cleaned. It seems reasonable that if an incident occurs requiring the evacuation of the area, then these pumping stations and wastewater plants will be unattended for possibly many days.

We have concluded, that without personnel on site to check the wastewater plants and stations, it will be necessary to provide for a quick automatic overflow or by-pass system of piping around the facilities. The regulatory agencies - particularly New York State Department of Environmental Conservation would have to approve such installations. Therefore, it is our expectation that should an evacuation be required, the sewage that reaches the plant and pumping stations would be discharged untreated into the nearest water course. If this is not done and a malfunction of equipment occurs while the plants are unattended, there would be an overflow, and a backing up of sewage through the manholes and into the streets.

We estimate construction of the by-pass or overflow piping would cost an estimated \$150,000 at Peekskill and \$100,000 at Ossining. This has not been budgeted for in the state plan to my knowledge.