

Reporter Disputed

June 12, 1982

DelBello: Evacuation plan test unlikely in 60 days

By Mike Barlow
Staff Writer

A proposed state radiological emergency plan for Rockland County isn't likely to be ready for testing within the next 60 days, Lt. Gov. Alfred DelBello said Tuesday.

However, DelBello said he hoped that an exercise to test the practicality of the plan could be scheduled within two to three months.

In a session characterized by candid talk and a spirit of cooperation, DelBello

met Tuesday night with members of the committee responsible for developing Rockland's own plan for coping with an emergency at the Indian Point nuclear power plants.

But the peaceful atmosphere of the meeting, at the County Office Building in New City, was momentarily broken when county Legislator Sam Gdanski reiterated his threat to launch a court battle against the state's presence in Rockland.

Gdanski, D-Ramapo, said the state's decision to implement its own plan in Rockland had "usurped the role of the local municipality."

DelBello, who was ordered last week by Gov. Mario Cuomo to complete and administer a state emergency plan for Rockland, repeatedly stressed that he had no intention of undermining local control over disaster planning.

The former Westchester county executive said his role would be "parallel or supplemental" to Rockland's own efforts to develop an emergency plan.

"It's going to be a horrendous effort," he said.

County officials and members of the committee wished DelBello luck but expressed doubt that he would be any more successful than the committee in devising a practical plan for evacuating more than a quarter of a million Rockland residents in the event of a full-scale nuclear disaster at the Buchanan reactors.

"You are embarking on an impossible course," said Legislature Chairman Herbert Reisman.

After the meeting, arranged in the wake of last Thursday's decision by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to let Indian Point remain open despite flaws in emergency planning on both sides of the Hudson River, DelBello said he was "impressed" by the depth and sincerity of the committee's efforts.

He offered assurances that the state plan would not be a "charade." Ideally, he explained, the state plan would be a foundation upon which Rockland could, if it chose, "build" its own plan.

The state plan would be carried out by about 50 state workers and some 500 employees of Consolidated Edison and the New York Power Authority — the

two utilities that operate the Indian Point reactors. All the employees chosen for the plan would live in or near Rockland.

Rockland, which withdrew last year from a regional disaster plan drawn by consultants for the utilities, has no formal plan of its own. The committee formed by the Rockland Legislature to develop such a plan does not expect to complete its work until early 1984.

DelBello confirmed that neither state nor federal officials expect the state's "compensating plan" — essentially identical to a draft plan developed last year by county officials — to be tested for at least another 60 days.

"It's up to FEMA (the Federal Emergency Management Agency) to set the date for an exercise," DelBello said.

Reisman said he doubted the lawmakers would back Gdanski's plan to sue the state.

"The worst thing Rockland could do now is go to war with New York state," the chairman said.

Reisman said a series of recent talks with state officials had convinced him that the state was making a sincere effort to provide financing for emergency equipment, communication gear and specially equipped vehicles needed to carry out a disaster plan.

He said the county would continue to work on its own plan while DelBello works on the state plan.

During the meeting, Rockland Sheriff's Patrol Chief James Kralik, who also serves on the committee, told DelBello the county could develop a workable plan if given enough time.

"I don't know how we got into this mess," Kralik lamented.

Relations appear cordial among pickets, supervisors

By Edward Frost
Staff Writer

The picket lines were up at many Consolidated Edison plants in Westchester Saturday afternoon, but relations between striking workers and the supervisors replacing them seemed cordial.

"We're all very amicable here," said Sophie Vinokur, a stenographer who was carrying a picket sign outside Con Edison's 210 Westchester Ave. office in White Plains, where she works.

"We're all friends, all the same family. It's a warm group here," she said.

Rubin Burns, a maintenance worker standing nearby, agreed.

Unlike the last strike against Con Edison — a 13-day walkout in December 1968 that was punctuated with incidents of shooting and arson — there were no reports in Westchester Saturday of violence or vandalism.

Across the county, several strikers worried about whether keeping Con Edison's Indian Point nuclear reactor open was safe, since most of the 700 employees who volunteered for the utility's evacuation program are on strike.

"The strike includes the bus drivers who evacuate people from Indian Point," said a 14-year veteran outside the Rye Service Center.

"With no evacuation plan, I believe the plant should close," said a worker from Peekskill on a picket line in Buchanan near the reactor. He said he would welcome anti-nuclear demonstrators who wanted to march with the strikers because of the danger of not having an evacuation plan under way.

"Without the proper people in there, it's just not safe," another Peekskill striker said.

But the primary consideration for the strikers, who walked off their jobs at 12:01 a.m. Saturday, is getting a better contract.

"We want to maintain what we've gotten and get a fair raise for the economy and a benefits package," said a shop steward at the Buchanan strike headquarters.

"Cost of living, that's all we're asking for," said a Peekskill man who works at Indian Point. "They (Con Edison) want to take away our security.

If a man gets hurt on the job, Con Ed wants to lessen his pay when he comes back to work or even hire someone else."

Two workers at the Rye plant complained that their health benefits didn't cover their medical expenses.

"You send in a lab bill for \$29 and you get \$8 back. That's not the best medical coverage," he said. "The only thing they treat you good for here is cancer, and who wants cancer?"

"The company made tremendous profits last year," said his partner, who has worked for Con Edison 14 years. "If they had lost money, we wouldn't be out here. You make no money from them. You live week-to-week on each check."

Neither man would give his name, fearing reprisals from management after the strike.

While they were picketing at about 4:30 p.m., two supervisors drove a "cherry picker" truck into the plant, and the four had a polite conversation. The two employees asked how things were going, and one foreman said it was quiet.

Both Rye workers wondered what would happen if an emergency hit, and one speculated that management might make arrangements to get the strikers back on the job.

"Those guys inside are not spring chickens any more," said the 27-year man, referring to the foremen. "If there were a massive thunderstorm, we'd go back to work, no doubt about it. People want their power.

"There's not enough of them to go around if there's a major storm," he added.

At the Buchanan generating station and Indian Point 2, the supervisors were locked in to maintain safety, a shop steward at union headquarters in Buchanan said.

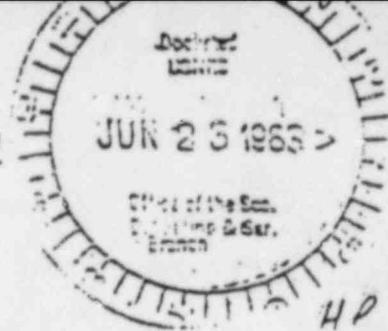
The supervisors were told to pack enough clothes for two weeks, and are working 12-hour shifts.

It won't be anything like a vacation trip. "There's no showers here," noted one supervisor entering the Pleasantville substation on Manville Road.

Staff writers contributing to this story were Greg Burke, Ruth Giacchino and Nancy McCann.

ATTACHMENT 3

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
BEFORE THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



In the Matter of)
)
CONSOLIDATED EDISON COMPANY OF NEW YORK, INC.)
(Indian Point, Unit No. 2))
)
POWER AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK)
(Indian Point, Unit No. 3))

Docket Nos.
50-247 SP
50-286 EP

.23 June 1983

UNION OF CONCERNED SCIENTISTS' RESPONSE TO
NYPIRG MOTION FOR RECONSIDERATION
OF COMMISSION DECISION OF JUNE 9, 1983

The Union of Concerned Scientists supports NYPIRG's motion for reconsideration of the Commission decision of June 9, 1983, permitting the Indian Point plants to continue operation without restriction despite continued noncompliance with emergency planning requirements.

We will not repeat the arguments made by NYPIRG. There are two points which should be emphasized.

First, due to the strike by ConEd employees, there can be no pretense that the hundreds of utility employees who are supposed to stand in for local and county personnel and bus drivers will be there to do these jobs. Indeed, the strike will even prevent their being trained and acquainted with their functions. No mention whatever was made to the Commissioners by the utilities or NRC of the imminence of a strike. Had the strike begun before the Commission vote on June 9, the Commission could not have permitted plant operation.

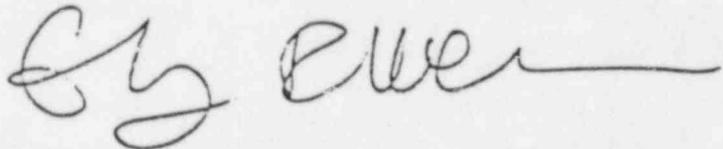
Second, the majority decision and the separate views of the

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Commissioners in the majority appear to have been written without benefit of review of the FEMA report on the status of planning and preparedness which was delivered to the Commission the day before the vote. When one gets beyond the carefully phrased ambiguities of the cover letter and into the substance of the report, it is unquestionably apparent that emergency planning for Indian Point is a chimera. NYPIRG's motion points out some of these deficiencies. UCS was astonished to read in the FEMA report, in particular, that none of the nine training standards have been met. Virtually all of the persons who are supposed to effect an evacuation and to protect the public, including the emergency coordinators, police, fire, bus drivers are not trained. The long list of deficiencies in the plan proceeds from there on, but one can scarcely imagine a more fundamental one. Had the Commission been fully aware of the sorry state of preparedness, it surely would not have allowed Indian Point to operate.

UCS urges the Commission to reconsider its decision of June 9, 1983.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Elyn R. Weiss". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Elyn R. Weiss
General Counsel
Union of Concerned Scientists

ATTACHMENT 4

The County of Rockland
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June 13, 1983

~~Director of Nuclear Reactor Safety~~
Director of Nuclear Reactor Safety and Safeguards
Director, Office of Inspection and Enforcement
Public Document Room
1717 H Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20006

Re: CONSOLIDATED EDISON COMPANY OF NEW YORK INC.
and THE POWER AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
(Indian Point Units 2 and 3)

Gentlemen:

Please be advised that the Rockland County Attorney, pursuant to Rockland County Resolution No. 302 of 1983, copy of which is attached, hereby requests, pursuant to 10CFR2.206 and 10 CFR2.202(f), that the determination of the Commissioners of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission of June 9, 1983, be immediately reversed and that the licenses of the above referenced nuclear facilities be immediately suspended.

The request of the County of Rockland is based upon the inability of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to assure that public health and safety can be protected in the 10 mile EPZ surrounding the Indian Point Nuclear Power Facilities.

Very truly yours,

ILAN S. SCHOENBERGER
Acting County Attorney


ERIC OLE THORSEN
Assistant County Attorney

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attachment

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