

DEC 22 1983

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Richard W. Krimm, Assistant Associate Director
Office of Natural and Technological
Hazard Programs

FROM: Edward L. Jordan, Director
Division of Emergency Preparedness
and Engineering Response
Office of Inspection and Enforcement

SUBJECT: THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA) SUPPORT
FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION (NRC) LICENSING OF
SHOREHAM NUCLEAR STATION

This confirms our telecon of December 19, 1983 regarding continued support by FEMA in review of the Shoreham emergency plan. Specifically, I have been advised by the NRC Executive Legal Directors Office that Long Island Lighting Company (LILCO) is issuing Revision 3 to the LILCO Transition Plan.

In the manner of my November 10, 1983 request to you, I request that FEMA include review of Revision 3 to the Transition Plan in the current effort which is due to be completed by February 1, 1984. We have requested LILCO to transmit copies of Revision 3 directly to the RAC members as soon as they are available to facilitate their ongoing review. We will transmit a record copy to you under a separate cover. Thank you for your continued support of this review.

Edward L. Jordan, Director
Division of Emergency Preparedness
and Engineering Response
Office of Inspection and Enforcement

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N.Y. Times

LONG ISLAND
OPINION

Shoreham: 'No' to Interim Licensing

By THOMAS J. DOWNEY

A NUCLEAR-POWER experiment is about to begin in this country, and Long Island could be the first test site.

In 1981, the House of Representatives voted overwhelmingly for legislation authorizing a new kind of "low-level" nuclear power plant operating license called "interim" license — a temporary license for nuclear reactors. The legislation was sent to conference and the final version, already passed by the Senate, is expected to be voted on and passed by the House after the October recess. I have been the only member of the Long Island delegation to oppose this legislation from its inception.

This special license is supposed to go to plants that are finished structurally but standing idle because the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has not completed the process of final licensing. Shoreham is likely to be the first plant considered by the N.R.C. for an interim license.

What is wrong with this? Plenty. Giving an interim license to Shoreham is like handing a kid a driver's license before his or her road test. It is not only inappropriate, it is dangerous. But that is what this interim licensing legislation currently before Congress would do.

As the legislation now stands, it is unclear whether the N.R.C. will pay for an independent physical inspection and design review of the safety system at Shoreham before it considers this "temporary" license. Interestingly, money is not the problem. The N.R.C. has over \$60 million budgeted

specifically for such inspections. The problem is that the legislation does not explicitly require the independent inspection.

I agree with Suffolk County leaders and various citizen groups that an independent inspection is imperative before any license is granted.

Second, it is unclear how the N.R.C. will determine the adequacy of the evacuation plan before an "interim" license is granted. There are strict adequacy requirements for a final license, but none for a temporary.

Clearly, a temporary license will let the Long Island Lighting Company skirt safety issues and possibly even avoid a full independent physical inspection. And what if a problem arises at Shoreham after the temporary license is issued — can the "temporary" be revoked? As the legislation now stands, the answer is no.

Finally, the legislation says nothing about whether a temporary license would enable a utility to begin including the entire cost of the nuclear plant in its rate base — a minor point to the supporters of the legislation, but crucial to Long Island rate payers since Shoreham may well become the most expensive source of kilowatt electricity in the country.

Unfortunately, I believe this legislation for "interim" licensing has the votes needed for final passage. I will, of course, fight passage on the floor of the Congress, but the real battle must now take place at the N.R.C. itself, and for that battle we need a great deal of support. Public sentiment against "temporary" licensing can make a difference. That sentiment can be expressed through local citizen groups and in letters, phone calls and telegrams to the chairman of the N.R.C., Nunzio J. Pallidino, and to local representatives. ■

Representative Thomas J. Downey of Amityville is a member of the House Ways and Means Committee.