



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

FEB 7 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman Palladino  
Commissioner Poberts  
Commissioner Asselstine  
Commissioner Bernthal  
Commissioner Zech

FROM: Frank Miraglia, Acting Director  
Division of Licensing

SUBJECT: ALLEGATIONS CONCERNING THE SHOREHAM NUCLEAR POWER STATION  
(BOARD NOTIFICATION NO. 85-014)

In accordance with the procedures for Board Notifications, the following information is being provided directly to the Commission. The appropriate boards and parties are being informed by a copy of this memorandum. This information is relevant only to the Shoreham Nuclear Power Station.

A January 17, 1985 Suffolk County article and a January 25, 1985 Riverhead News Review article have recently been received by the staff. Both are enclosed for your information. The Office of Investigation's Regional Office has been requested to interview the alleged. Region I will pursue the technical concerns in coordination with OI's efforts. The staff will provide the results of these reviews when they become available.

*Frank J. Miraglia*  
Frank Miraglia, Acting Director  
Division of Licensing

Enclosures:  
As stated

cc: Brenner, ASLB  
Ferguson, ASLB  
Morris, ASLB  
Miller, ASLB  
Bright, ASLP  
Johnson, ASLB  
Rosenthal, ASLAB  
Edles, ASLAB  
Wilber, ASLAB  
SECY (2)  
OPE  
OGC  
EDO (4)  
ACRS (10)  
Parties to the Proceeding

NOOS

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Shoreham Unit 1, Docket No. 50-322

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Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel	Stephen B. Latham, Esq.
Docketing and Service Section	Morton B. Margulies, Esq.
Document Management Branch	Mr. Brian McCaffrey
MHB Technical Associates	Marshall E. Miller, Esq.
Robert Abrams, Esq.	Dr. Peter A. Morris
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Norman L. Green, Esq.	
Mr. Bruce L. Harshe	
Elizabeth B. Johnson, Esq.	

## Hot Potato

Tensions are rising over the state's new plan to more than double farm tax assessments. Page 3.

## It's Done

After two years and 200 miles of cable, Riverhead's new television system is complete. Page 3.

## Drug Bust

Cocaine and marijuana were seized, and three Riverhead men were arrested Monday night. Page 6.

# The News-Review

VOL. LXXXII No. 37

Thursday, January 17, 1985

The Official Newspaper of the Town of Riverhead

30¢



## Riverhead Meets Rosey

New York Gov. Governor Rosey addresses a packed house at Living Water Full Gospel Church in Aquebogue last Wednesday night.

In his present role as a roving minister. See story on page 23.

Photo by Glenn Jochum

## Ex-Worker Cites Shoreham Flaws

By EARL GROSSMAN

A former quality control inspector at the Long Island Lighting Company's Shoreham nuclear plant probed this week described major components of the plant — including many critical safety-related items — as below standards. He told of inspectors who attempted to enforce proper standards being routinely discharged. He said serious defects in the plant's construction have been ignored or "rubber-stamped."

Although George W. Henry of Mystic Beach eventually was fired from his job, he is a supporter of nuclear power. "In my eyes, nuclear is a viable source of power. But it has to be in the right hands and done in the proper manner," he said.

At Shoreham, said Mr. Henry, there is little concern for the standards of nuclear plant construction set by the American National Standards Institute, the American Society for Mechanical Engineers and other industrial groups and the Code of Federal Regulations for Nuclear Quality Assurance.

"The violations run the gamut from procedure violations, hardware violations, poor welds, structural defects," said Mr. Henry.

Mr. Henry, who served as a quality control inspector at Shoreham from 1981 to 1983, said that "towards the end, things really began to fall apart. The attitude was, 'Let's get the plant on line. The company can't afford to fleet this turkey any longer. If things do not meet the criteria, it doesn't matter. We are on a critical path.'"

### Diesel Generators Suspect?

Mr. Henry, 51, before being "intensely trained" to be a Shoreham quality control inspector, was a LILCO customer accounts representative. He was chosen for quality control work, he said, because he was a science major at Drexel College. He had a long association with LILCO, starting as a meter reader during summers while at the Oakdale college. His wife, Vickiann, also worked for LILCO at Shoreham.

He said that "the straw that broke

(continued on page 4)

# Flaws...

(continued from page 1)

the camel's back" at Shoreham for him concerned defects in the emergency back-up diesel generators installed at Shoreham.

"I pointed to problems with the diesel for a year-and-a-half," said Mr. Henry. "I wrote several violations. Then, he said, he was present when a diesel was tested in August 1983 and the kind of crankshaft problems he anticipated came to pass.

The diesel began vibrating but still, he said, the test engineer refused to stop the test arguing that the diesel had "only six hours left of testing before it would pass" the required testing period. Then the test abruptly ended as the diesel underwent a "major breakdowns" - its crankshaft shattered.

Mr. Henry said he strongly objected to LILCO higher-ups about what was going on at the project, including taking his concerns to then LILCO president Wilfred O. Uhl.

He said he was told that the problems were "in a grey area. Well, there is no grey area when it comes to nuclear power. Things are done either right or wrong. They meet the criteria or they don't."

He said he went to U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission personnel who are supposed to supervise the construction, "but they didn't give a damn. They had a belligerent attitude mainly because Ronald Reagan cut their budget and they weren't getting raises. They said, 'We're just going to walk it through, and they had no interest in these things.'"

### Husband and Wife Flied

He said LILCO then demanded he resign, but he refused. Finally, he said, LILCO fired him for not properly punching in and out at various buildings at the plant site. However, he displayed a judgment from the New York State Department of Labor Administrative Law Judge Sention declaring that "substantial evidence supports claimant's contention that he followed company procedures... The evidence herein fails to demonstrate behavior on the part of claimant which amounted to misconduct in the course of his employment." He said, "I had an impeccable record with the company. What they did was totally ridiculous. They tried to discredit me."



GEORGE HENRY

He said LILCO then went after his wife, who worked as a documentation clerk at Shoreham keeping track, with a computer, of much of the paperwork on the project.

Mrs. Henry said, "First some of my work was pulled. They kept certain documents from me. Then there was a lot of harassment." Finally, Mrs. Henry was fired, too.

He said he had not wanted "to go to the press" but with LILCO now loading fuel at Shoreham and on the verge of getting an NRC license to operate the plant at low power, he and Mrs. Henry felt they must see a reporter. "Something has to be done about this," said Mr. Henry.

Mr. Henry turned over to this reporter many documents - including various inspection reports - to back up the charges he was making.

Among the problems at Shoreham, said Mr. Henry:

"The back-up diesel generators cannot be counted on to function properly. They finally got them to pass the test but I wouldn't trust them to shut the reactor down," he said. The generators were sold to LILCO by Transamerica Delaval of Oakland, Cal., but, in fact, were manufactured in 1968 by a company Delaval took over. "LILCO got a good bargain on them," said Mr. Henry. As a result of chronic problems with the diesel, LILCO has said it could obtain electricity to prevent a serious accident if plant power failed from gas turbine generators at the Shoreham site. However, Mr. Henry showed documents mapping the electric grid to Shoreham and noted that there is "only one switch" through which off-site electric-

ity would come. "There is supposed to be redundancy in nuclear power in the event of breakdown. There is no back-up here."

"There are problems with valves at the plant, including one 'critical check valve,' part of the hydrogen recombin-ing system. This valve was returned to its manufacturer, the Valco Corp. of Montreal, Canada, and 'came back worse.' However, 'because it was a \$60,000 valve, they didn't want to send it back again' and due to the rush to get Shoreham into operation, the valve was kept. Another below-standard valve, he said, involved the 'high-pressure coolant injection system. It did not meet opening and closing criteria, and that is very important. If that valve doesn't operate properly, a serious accident could result." In connection with this valve, Mr. Henry showed the inspection report he had written rejecting it, on which a LILCO supervisor then wrote, "George, cut the s---. The supervisor then wrote down, 'Dis-positioned,' with a date several months hence, meaning the valve was approved in the future.

"There are defects in the uranium fuel rods which could lead to serious consequences. I was involved in inspecting the fuel rods," Mr. Henry said. "Some don't have the proper strontium cladding, some have gouges, some have improper spaces for water flow. This can all lead to hot spots. It can lead to a breakdown in the rod itself - a minimal problem if the rod becomes distorted and is not being cooled." He said some of the fuel rods were "remanufactured on the spot" but others were "dis-positioned by paperwork."

He also cited a "decontamination area" for vehicles on Route 25-A near the plant. He showed a LILCO map netting an area where there would be "contaminated vehicle parking" - where such vehicles would be hoisted down, radioactive debris washed off them. However, he said, "that area is supposed to be lined with a catch basin of fiberglass. It's not. When they wash these vehicles down, the radioactivity will go right into the groundwater."

### Hts Evacuation Plan, Too

He said the sort of sloppiness involved in the construction of the plant carries through to how a public evacuation - in the event of a plant mishap - would be handled. He spoke of participating in one emergency drill in which members of the Shoreham's plant's radiology and health physics de-

partments, which would provide authorities with information and advice on an accident, were called for "an evacuation of the North Shore of western Suffolk because they were plotting the plume totally wrong." The exercise was premised on prevailing winds from the west. Thus, the plume of radioactivity would be heading to the east. "I told them they were wrong about the evacuation area. They rechecked their calculations and admitted, yes, western Suffolk would have to be evacuated, not western Suffolk. They were off - by 180 degrees."

He said that in addition to its own inspectors, LILCO has contracted with LPL Technical Services of Great Neck, which provides inspectors for "nuclear plants all around the world" for additional quality control services. But, he said, LPL inspectors who are strict on standards routinely end up being laid off by LILCO.

### Henry: 'Not Far Off'

He said he realized before going to work at Shoreham, that "the media and the public have been screaming about Shoreham. Well, they're not far off."

He said, "A quality assurance program is only as strong as the people in it. But, he said, a supervisor of the Shoreham quality assurance program emphasized to him that he lived in a house in the Shoreham-Wading River School District, where the plant is located, and "he would keep saying, 'If the plant does not go on line, my taxes will go up. This place has to go on line.'"

"The almighty dollar is getting in front of everybody's eyes up there," said Mr. Henry of the Shoreham project, "and it's dangerous - a very dangerous situation. The whole attitude at Shoreham is haphazard, shoddy, slipshod."

Russa Ruggiers, a LILCO media representative, said the utility would have no comment on Mr. Henry's charges.

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\$2.75 per cubic yard

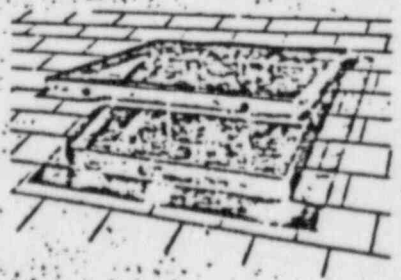
Permit stickers and coupons may be purchased at the office of the Town Clerk, Town Hall, 200 Haver Avenue, Riverhead, N.Y. between the hours of 8:30 A.M. and 4:30 P.M.

By order of the Town Board  
Town of Riverhead, New York

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# 2nd Ex-Inspector: Shoreham's a 'Real Lemon'

By KARL GROSSMAN

As a result of the charges made last week by a former inspector at the Long Island Lighting Company's Shoreham nuclear power plant project of major inadequacies in the plant, a second former inspector has come forward with what he described as "similar experiences."

Ron Stanchfield of Southampton said he has been in engineering for 15 years and has done engineering work for six nuclear facilities, including Waterford in Louisiana, Surrey in Virginia and Braidwood and Byron in Illinois.

He said he has never seen the kind of deficiencies he saw at Shoreham. "Over the years I have been with incompetent people, but I've never seen incompetence en masse as goes on at Shoreham," Mr. Stanchfield said this week.

Like former Shoreham inspector George W. Henry of Mastic Beach, Mr. Stanchfield said he supports nuclear power. "I am not opposed to nuclear," he said, "but what is going on at Shoreham is something else."

Mr. Henry, who worked for two years as a quality control inspector at Shoreham, charged last week that major components of the plant — including many critical safety-related items — are below standard.

Mr. Stanchfield said he worked at Shoreham as a quality assurance engineer for two months before he was dismissed for, he said, complaining about how people with inadequate engineering backgrounds were being hired as inspectors and then given poor training.

## 'A Real Lemon'

Thereafter, he was an electrical designer on the project for nine months. During that period, he said, he saw "numerous engineering and construction practices not consistent with nuclear plant construction standards. Shoreham is poorly-conceived and poorly-constructed. I've been around

good plants, and the fact of the matter is that Shoreham is a real lemon." He said he "wouldn't be surprised if it starts coming apart in pieces if they let it go on line." He said there was "no self-monitoring, no self-discipline" on the project and he found LILCO "beligerently arrogant."

He said he resigned after LILCO claimed an earthquake which affected this region in October 1981 was not felt in the Shoreham reactor building.

In an October 29, 1981, letter of resignation, Mr. Stanchfield wrote: "LILCO's whitewash of last week's earthquake is the final straw to my departure. I was in the Reactor Building when the tremors occurred and, without question, the earthquake was felt by hundreds of workers in all the buildings, including the Reactor Building... I cannot let LILCO's blatant irresponsibility to the community at large go unanswered."

He said he became a Shoreham inspector in early 1981 after, at a party, he met a Shoreham inspector who said he "could get me into Shoreham." Mr. Stanchfield said he was surprised to find out that this inspector "had never been in engineering before."

When he went to work at Shoreham for Courter and Company of New York, a major contractor on the project, he said he was surprised to find that many of those being trained to be inspectors had no experience in engineering. He said the training to be certified as an inspector was highly-inadequate. "They just read from the book of procedures — there was no real teaching," he said.

## Try, Try Again

When it came time for an examination, he said the test was distributed and the inspectors-in-training were allowed to take it to "another trailer" where actual inspectors provided help with answers. "There was no monitoring," he said. Still, said Mr. Stanchfield,

out of his class of seven, he was the only one to pass the test. But those who failed, he said, were allowed to repeat the test the following day.

He said he complained to officials of Courter and Company. "I'm a former Marine and I have respect for the chain of command," he said, so he started with his direct supervisor and went up the line complaining about who was being hired and the training they were receiving. But, he said, there was no interest. After he took his concerns to top company officials, he said he was dismissed.

He then went to work at Shoreham for L.K. Comstock of Pittsburgh, Pa., another contractor on the project. He said he was "a hit" in the first two months working for Comstock as an electrical designer, but when he started to complain about inadequacies in the construction there was a complete change of attitude. Again, he said, he found resistance to any concerns he raised.

He said when the earthquake occurred "and I felt the tremors in the reactor building and LILCO, the following day, issued a press release saying there were no tremors felt in it, that was it for me."

Mr. Stanchfield said he does not want to "sound holier than thou, but I have experience. And the whole thing up there at Shoreham is an absurdity."

Since leaving Shoreham, Mr. Stanchfield, 40, has run a Southampton-based engineering and architectural firm called Associates and Stanchfield.

## LILCO: 'Without Merit'

Susan Ruggiero, a media representative for LILCO, said the utility would "have no comment at this time" on Mr. Stanchfield's charges. Meanwhile, after declining comment last week, LILCO issued a statement declaring that "the company is aware of Mr. George Henry's charges and has found they are without merit."

An NRC public relations person, Karl Abraham, was quoted in *Newsday*

Saturday as saying Mr. Henry's allegations "are being reviewed," but Mr. Henry said Monday that "the NRC has not called me." He had also complained that when he went to the NRC with his complaints, NRC inspectors "didn't give a damn... They said, 'We're just going to walk it (Shoreham) through,' and they had no interest in these things."

LILCO officials announced this week that the loading of nuclear fuel into the reactor at Shoreham was complete. Ira Freilicher, vice president for public relations of the utility, said he hoped for approval from the NRC to bring the reactor to up to five percent of its rated 820 megawatts of power in coming weeks.

## Henry Hearing

HAUPPAUGE—A special committee meeting of the Suffolk Legislature will be held to consider charges made by former Shoreham inspector George W. Henry about defects in the construction of LILCO's nuclear plant.

The move was made by Legislator Wayne Prospect as Mr. Henry appeared before the county legislature Tuesday at the invitation of Legislator Gregory Blass. "I would like to join with other interested legislators and have Mr. Henry come before a special ad hoc committee," said Mr. Prospect. "This man has a story to tell."

At the legislative session, Mr. Henry alleged that high LILCO officials did not tell the truth in testimony before a Nuclear Regulatory Commission board delving into safety issues concerning the Shoreham project.

No date was set for the legislative committee session with Mr. Henry. Mr. Prospect said he would reserve the legislative auditorium at the County Center in Hauppauge for the meeting.