

LILCO, February 13, 1985

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Before the Commission

In the Matter of	)	
	)	
LONG ISLAND LIGHTING COMPANY	)	Docket No. 50-322-OL-4
	)	(Low Power)
(Shoreham Nuclear Power Station,	)	
Unit 1)	)	

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LILCO'S OPPOSITION TO SUFFOLK COUNTY  
AND NEW YORK STATE MOTION FOR STAY  
OF PHASE III AND IV LICENSE

Yesterday following the Commission's decision on immediate effectiveness of Phases III and IV of LILCO's low power license application, Suffolk County and New York State filed a motion for a stay of the Commission's decision based on alleged violations of the National Environmental Policy Act and on Chairman Palladino's refusal to recuse himself in this matter. The Commission should summarily deny this motion.

Suffolk County and New York State argue that the Commission's authorization of a Phase III/IV license must be stayed because the Commission has assertedly violated the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) by not preparing a supplemental environmental impact statement (EIS) dealing with low power operation. Intervenors' assertion is premised on legal arguments that have already

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been considered and rejected by the Commission over 8 months ago in CLI-84-9. Long Island Lighting Co. (Shoreham Nuclear Power Station, Unit 1), CLI-84-9, 19 NRC 1323 (1984). The Commission's decision not to supplement the Shoreham EIS was a final agency order that Intervenor could have appealed. See Aberdeen & Rockfish R. Co. v. Students Challenging Regulatory Agency Procedures (SCRAP), 422 U.S. 289, 319 (1975);<sup>1/</sup> cf. People Against Nuclear Energy v. NRC, 678 F.2d 222 (D.C.Cir. 1982), rev'd, 460 U.S. 766 (1983) (judicial review of Commission decision not to admit contentions on alleged environmental effects during TMI-1 restart proceeding). They did not do so. Nor did they take any steps to seek timely reconsideration from the Commission itself. None of the operative facts on this issue have changed since the Commission's decision in CLI-84-9. Intervenor's request for a stay should be summarily denied.

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<sup>1/</sup> In SCRAP, the Supreme Court clearly stated:

NEPA does create a discrete procedural obligation on Government agencies to give written consideration of environmental issues in connection with certain major federal actions and a right of action in adversely affected parties to enforce that obligation. When agency or departmental consideration of environmental factors in connection with that "federal action" is complete, notions of finality and exhaustion do not stand in the way of judicial review of the adequacy of such consideration, even though other aspects of the [proceeding] are not ripe for review.

422 U.S. at 319.

Intervenors' argument with respect to Chairman Palladino's refusal to recuse himself is similiarly untimely. The Chairman issued his decision on this issue on September 24, 1984, nearly five months ago. Intervenors did not seek any reconsideration of that decision at the time, nor did they do so at any point in the ensuing half-year prior to the Commission's reaching its final decision on this matter. Parties cannot sit on disqualification claims until the posture of a case makes it tactically advantageous, but must do so promptly. As the D.C. Circuit stated in Marcus v. Director, Office of Workers Compensation Programs,:

The general rule governing disqualification, normally applicable to the federal judiciary and administrative agencies alike, requires that such a claim be raised as soon as practicable after a party has reasonable cause to believe that grounds for disqualification exists. It will not do for a claimant to suppress his misgivings while waiting anxiously to see whether the decision goes in his favor. A contrary rule would only countenance and encourage unacceptable inefficiency in the administrative process. The APA-mandated procedures afford every party ample opportunity to enforce and preserve its due process rights. Under the present circumstances, however, petitioner must be deemed to have waived his claim.

548 F.2d 1044, 1051 (D.C. Cir. 1976) (citations omitted). Accord, Long Island Lighting Company (Shoreham Nuclear Power Station, Unit 1), ALAB-777, 20 NRC 21, 32 note 33. Petitioners knew of Chairman Palladino's refusal to disqualify himself nearly five months ago. Had they wished to protect their claim without totally disrupting the Commission's process, they should have acted promptly on that

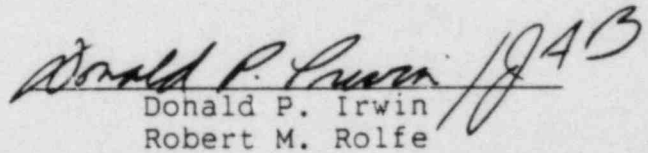
knowledge rather than waiting until after they had lost the low power decision and their request lost any practical value. Their failure to timely pursue their remedies requires that their request for a stay be summarily denied.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, the joint motion of Suffolk County and New York State for a stay of the Phase III and IV license should be summarily denied.

Respectfully submitted,

LONG ISLAND LIGHTING COMPANY

 1943  
Donald P. Irwin  
Robert M. Rolfe

Hunton & Williams  
P.O. Box 1535  
Richmond, Virginia 23212

DATED: February 13, 1985



CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

In the Matter of  
LONG ISLAND LIGHTING COMPANY  
(Shoreham Nuclear Power Station, Unit 1)  
Docket No. 50-322-OL-4 (Low Power)

I hereby certify that copies of LILCO'S OPPOSITION TO SUFFOLK COUNTY AND NEW YORK STATE MOTION FOR STAY OF PHASE III AND IV LICENSE were served this date upon the following by U.S. mail, first-class, postage prepaid or by hand or telecopier (as indicated by one asterisk) or by Federal Express (as indicated by two asterisks).

Chairman Nunzio J. Palladino\*  
United States Nuclear  
Regulatory Commission  
1717 H Street  
Washington, DC 20555

Commissioner James K. Asselstine\*  
United States Nuclear  
Regulatory Commission  
1717 H Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20555

Commissioner Frederick M. Bernthal\*  
United States Nuclear  
Regulatory Commission  
1717 H Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20555

Commissioner Thomas M. Roberts\*  
United States Nuclear  
Regulatory Commission  
1717 H Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20555

Commissioner Lando W. Zech, Jr.\*  
United States Nuclear  
Regulatory Commission  
1717 H Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20555

Alan S. Rosenthal, Chairman\*\*  
Atomic Safety and Licensing  
Appeal Board, United States  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Fifth Floor (North Tower)  
East West Towers  
4350 East-West Highway  
Bethesda, Maryland 20814

Gary J. Edles\*\*  
Atomic Safety and Licensing  
Appeal Board, United States  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Fifth Floor (North Tower)  
East West Towers  
4350 East-West Highway  
Bethesda, Maryland 20814

Howard A. Wilber\*\*  
Atomic Safety and Licensing  
Appeal Board, United States  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Fifth Floor (North Tower)  
East West Towers  
4350 East-West Highway  
Bethesda, Maryland 20814

Judge Marshall E. Miller,\*\*  
Chairman, Atomic Safety  
and Licensing Board  
United States Nuclear  
Regulatory Commission  
Fourth Floor  
East-West Towers (West Tower)  
4350 East-West Highway  
Bethesda, Maryland 20814

Judge Glenn O. Bright\*\*  
Atomic Safety and Licensing  
Board, United States  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Fourth Floor  
East-West Towers (West Tower)  
4350 East-West Highway  
Bethesda, Maryland 20814

Judge Elizabeth B. Johnson\*\*  
Oak Ridge National Laboratory  
Building 3500  
P.O. Box X  
Oak Ridge, TN 37830

Edwin J. Reis, Esq.\*  
Bernard M. Bordenick, Esq.  
Office of the Executive  
Legal Director  
United States Nuclear  
Regulatory Commission  
Maryland National Bank Building  
7735 Old Georgetown Road  
Bethesda, MD 20814

Herbert H. Brown, Esq.\*  
Alan R. Dynner, Esq.  
Lawrence Coe Lanpher, Esq.  
Kirkpatrick & Lockhart  
8th Floor  
1900 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20036

Fabian Palomino, Esq.\*\*  
Special Counsel to the Governor  
Executive Chamber, Room 229  
State Capitol  
Albany, NY 12224

James B. Dougherty, Esq.\*\*  
3045 Porter Street  
Washington, DC 20006

Martin Bradley Ashare, Esq.  
Suffolk County Attorney  
H. Lee Dennison Building  
Veterans Memorial Highway  
Hauppauge, NY 11788

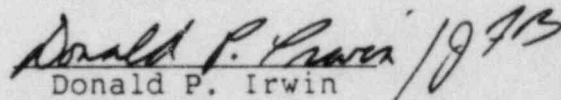
Stephen B. Lathar Esq.\*\*  
John F. Shea, Esq.  
Twomey, Latham & Shea  
33 West Second Street  
Riverhead, NY 11901

The Honorable Peter Cohalan  
Suffolk County Executive  
County Executive/  
Legislative Building  
Veterans Memorial Highway  
Hauppauge, NY 11788

Jay Dunkleberger, Esq.  
New York State Energy Office  
Agency Building 2  
Empire State Plaza  
Albany, NY 12223

Mr. Martin Suubert  
c/o Congressman William Carney  
1113 Longworth House Office  
Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Docketing and Service  
Branch (3)  
Office of the Secretary  
United States Nuclear  
Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555

  
Donald P. Irwin

Hunton & Williams  
Post Office Box 1535  
Richmond, Virginia 23212

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