

BARNEY FRANK  
4TH DISTRICT, MASSACHUSETTS

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FEB 23 1987

PR-DPR-50  
52 FR 6980

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WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
1030 LONGWORTH BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515  
(202) 225-5931

DISTRICT OFFICES:  
437 CHERRY STREET  
WEST NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02165  
(617) 332-3920

10 PURCHASE STREET  
FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS 02722  
(617) 674-3551

8 NORTH MAIN STREET  
ATTLEBORO, MASSACHUSETTS 02703  
(617) 226-4723

**Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C.**

STATEMENT BY BARNEY FRANK FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
FEBRUARY 24, 1987

I appreciate the chance to submit this statement to the NRC. I understand the frustration felt by the builders of the Seabrook Nuclear Plant, and of other nuclear plants, who have encountered governors who insist on carrying out the intent of the law and accompanying regulations with regard to evacuation plans and other matters of safety. It seems to me unfair for those who disagree with the governors to blame them for taking seriously their responsibilities to protect the interest of their citizens.

Governors Dukakis and Cuomo are not responsible for decisions made by others to put nuclear plants in places which make evacuation of the sort envisioned in the existing regulatory scheme virtually impossible. And I do not understand why they should be criticized for pointing out the difficulties that have resulted from the siting decisions made by others. For the NRC to respond to the position of these and other governors by eliminating a state role in the preparation of adequate evacuation plans and other safety matters would be a very grave error. The NRC ought not to adopt a policy of punishing the messengers who bring the bad news that evacuation of the sort envisioned in the law when it was adopted are either impossible or extraordinarily difficult given the incorrect siting decisions of certain nuclear plants.

It would be particularly ironic if the national administration that has professed its concern with the rights of the states were to punish governors for their refusal to pretend that evacuation of large numbers of people from very congested areas was possible in situations when everyone knows it is not.

I hope you will not promulgate a policy which would result in such an irony.

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