

MICHAEL P. FORBES

16<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT, NEW YORK

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INTERNET ADDRESS

[mpforbes@hr.house.gov](mailto:mpforbes@hr.house.gov)

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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-3201

January 6, 1999

LOCAL OFFICES

1500 WILLIAM FLOYD PARKWAY  
SHIRLEY, LONG ISLAND, NY 11967  
(516) 345-9000

186 WEST MONTAUK HIGHWAY  
HAMPTON ATRIUM, SUITE D  
HAMPTON BAYS, LONG ISLAND, NY 11946  
(516) 723-0017

277 MIDDLE COUNTRY ROAD  
SMITHTOWN EXECUTIVE PLAZA, SUITE 107 B  
SMITHTOWN, LONG ISLAND, NY 11787  
(516) 724-4600

WASHINGTON OFFICE

418 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3201  
(202) 225-3826

Ms. Shirley Jackson  
Chairman  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
11555 Rockville Pike  
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Dear Chairman Jackson and Members of the Commission:

Yet another malfunction of the Millstone 3 nuclear power plant in Waterford, Connecticut occurred this past Monday, January 4, 1999. While this most recent failure did not cause another shut down of Millstone 3, it is perhaps the most troubling because it released into Long Island Sound 800 gallons of water containing radioactive tritium. In light of this leak at Millstone 3 and since no evacuation plan has been created to prepare Eastern Long Island for the unlikely event of an accident at the plant, I call upon the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to permanently shut down Millstone 3.

Millstone 3 was shut down no less than five times in the last six months. On August 11, 1998, Millstone 3 was shutdown to repair a leak on a valve that is part of a backup system designed to provide water to the plant's steam generators if the primary system fails. On September 15, Millstone 3 was shut down after a leaking isolation valve threatened to allow salt water to enter and damage the plant's steam generators. On October 28, Millstone 3 was shut down after operators again discovered the potential for salt water to enter the plant and cause damage. November 11, Millstone 3 shut down after high winds and turbulent waters in Long Island Sound caused seaweed and other debris to clog a water intake structure. On December 11, 1998, Millstone 3 was shut down at 8:41 a.m when one of the plant's four Main Steam Isolation Valves closed inadvertently during a test, causing a loss of steam in the plant's turbines.

In the face of these ongoing problems with Millstone 3, Northeast Utilities (NU) plans to reopen Millstone 2. I ask that the NRC ensure Millstone 2 remain closed and ask the NRC to convene a public meeting on Long Island to discuss NU's plan to restart it. As you will remember, at my request on May 26, 1998 the NRC held a public meeting in Jamesport, Long Island so local residents could provide input, get information, ask questions and comment on NU's plan to restart Millstone 3. There I asked the NRC to delay for 90 days its decision to restart and, despite my objections, the Commission voted to allow NU to restart Millstone 3 on

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PDR COMMS NRCC  
CORRESPONDENCE PDR

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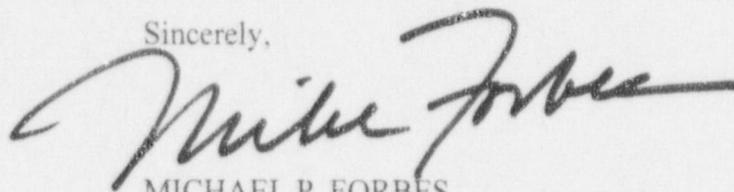
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June 15, 1998. I then pressed the NRC for an emergency management plan for Eastern Long Island.

Although the NRC again refused, I was able to secure an agreement from NU to work with local, county and State officials on developing an emergency management plan for Eastern Long Island and to begin an ongoing dialogue with those officials about operation and management at the Millstone Nuclear Power Station and Millstone 3. On July 20, 1998, I convened the initial meeting in Riverhead between NU and local, county and State officials to establish this ongoing dialogue. Since that meeting NU has assisted each of Long Island's five East End Towns and Suffolk County with creating a coordinated emergency plan and establishing an open line of communication to ensure Eastern Long Island is considered when decisions are made regarding the Millstone. No emergency plan has been created and Millstone 3 continues to suffer operating failures, necessitating multiple shut downs. I must conclude that Millstone 3 is unsafe. The NRC must shut down Millstone 3 and not allow Millstone 2 to be restarted.

Given repeated technical failures and the absence of a plan to safely evacuate Eastern Long Island, I urge the commission to take immediate action to permanently close Millstone 3.

Sincerely,



MICHAEL P. FORBES  
Member of Congress

MPF:ftd

cc: Governor George E. Pataki, State of New York  
Suffolk County Executive Robert J. Gaffney  
Supervisor Jean Cochran, Town of Southold  
Supervisor Catherine Lester, Town of East Hampton  
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