



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

May 9, 1989

The Honorable Thomas J. Downey
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Congressman Downey:

In your letter of April 20, 1989, you requested that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) reconsider its decision to authorize the NRC staff to issue a full power operating license to the Shoreham nuclear power plant based in part on the argument that the geography of Long Island and its highway system make adequate emergency planning impossible.

These issues were exhaustively litigated in the Shoreham licensing proceeding, with full adjudicatory procedures, and the conclusion was reached, as early as 1985, that nothing in the geography of Long Island nor in the highway system make it impossible to evacuate the 10-mile emergency planning zone around the plant. By 1989, the only outstanding emergency planning issues related to the refusal of New York State and Suffolk County to participate in coordinated emergency planning with Federal and utility officials. Even recognizing that refusal to participate, it was the considered judgment of the NRC staff that the statutory standard -- "reasonable assurance that adequate protective measures can and will be taken" -- was satisfied for Shoreham.

The Commission, which is ultimately responsible for the protection of public health and safety, voted to authorize the NRC staff to issue a full power license for Shoreham. We are confident that our decision was correct, and we find no basis to withdraw the Shoreham license.

Commissioner Curtiss did not participate in this response.

Sincerely,

Lando W. Zech Jr.
Lando W. Zech, Jr.

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

May 9, 1989

CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Robert J. Mrazek
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Congressman Mrazek:

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Sincerely,

Lando W. Zech, Jr.
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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
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May 9, 1989

The Honorable George Hochbrueckner
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Congressman Hochbrueckner:

In your letter of April 20, 1989, you requested that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) reconsider its decision to authorize the NRC staff to issue a full power operating license to the Shoreham nuclear power plant based in part on the argument that the geography of Long Island and its highway system make adequate emergency planning impossible.

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Commissioner Curtiss did not participate in this response.

Sincerely,

Lando W. Zech Jr.
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