Deadly Shipments Of Waste, Noise Levels Discussed By Proponents Of Lloyd A-Plant

By JIM DETJEN
Journal Staff Writer

HIGHLAND—The shipments of radioactive wastes, noise levels and PCB's (polychlorinated biphenyls) were some of the new issues discussed Wednesday by consultants and staff members of the state Energy Research and Development Authority (ERDA) during a press conference and informational meeting on the state's proposed $3.2 billion nuclear complex in Ulster County.

Between 200 and 475 tractor-trailer truckloads of enriched uranium fuel, highly radioactive "spent fuel" and solid wastes will be shipped to and from the 4,000 to 5,000 megawatt nuclear complex, if it is built, according to figures supplied by ERDA staff members.

Bart Chezar, a staff biologist with ERDA, said that five truckloads of uranium fuel are brought into the Indian Point 3 and James Fitzpatrick nuclear power plant complexes each year. Since the proposed Lloyd complex would be between four and five times as big as the 821-megawatt Fitzpatrick reactor or the 965-megawatt Indian Point 3 reactor, a comparable figure at the Lloyd complex could be between 20 and 25 truckloads the size of large gasoline trucks.

Chezar said that 22 truckloads of highly radioactive spent fuel leave the Indian Point 3 complex each year and 70 truckloads leave the Fitzpatrick plant. Thus, between 90 and 350 trailer truck shipments of this spent fuel, contained in multi-ton casks, would be shipped from the Lloyd complex for storage in western New York, Illinois or South Carolina.

Similarly, 20 truckloads of solid wastes are shipped from Consolidated Edison Co.'s Indian Point 3 complex and the Power Authority's Fitzpatrick plants. Thus, between 80 and 100 truckloads of mildly radioactive objects, acids, sludge, building rubble and other solid wastes would be shipped from the Lloyd complex, if it were built.

ERDA siting manager Cloin G. Robertson maintained, however, that no special safeguards or armed personnel would be required to make sure that the dangerously radioactive spent fuel is not hijacked by terrorist groups. "We are not shipping out pure plutonium," he said of the spent fuel which contains a small percentage of plutonium in the casks. "Plutonium is a separate issue. But hijackers would be foolish to take this irradiated fuel."

Robertson said that each of the proposed four nuclear reactors would have storage space inside the reactor complex to hold the irradiated spent fuel before it is shipped from the plants. He said this spent fuel would be stored in pools of water for between 90 adn 150 days to cool off the radioactive material before it is shipped off to be reprocessed or held in storage elsewhere.

During the state's informational meeting, the issue of noise pollution was discussed for the first time locally. Dr. Edward Aleo, an

(See Deadly, Page 10)

Deadly, From Page 1

audiologist at the State University at New Paltz, said that during "blowdown" periods of the complex noise levels of the power complex would be "very annoying" to people living one mile and more away from the complex.

"ERDA's report on noise shows that blowdowns lasting 10 to 15 minutes would happen five times a day, creating noise levels of 90 decibels one mile away from the plant. He said that this means that the level of noise near the plant would increase by a factor of 10,000 times over the existing noise levels.

"The cooling towers would emit sounds comparable to a 140 decibel jet engine," he said. "And there will be additional noise created by the traffic of up to 90 big diesel trucks each day moving in and out of the plant complex."

Anthony Callendreilo, the author of ERDA's noise report and an employe of Lewis S. Goodfriend and Associates, said the blowdown noises would occur only during the start-up period of the plant and that noise from diesel trucks would occur only during the daytime.

During an afternoon press conference, Irwin Spickler, the director of ERDA's meteorological studies, said that some PCB's would be emitted into the atmosphere through the project's cooling towers because the water which the plant uses is taken from the Hudson River which contains PCB's. Landy Strongin, the acting general manager and secretary of ERDA, agreed that the authority has not studied what impact the emission of PCB's would have on the region but said such studies are now being made by the state Department of Environmental Conservation.

Spickler said he believed the quantity of PCB's, a toxic chemical which is believed to be a serious health hazard to humans, would be very small and reduced through modern design of cooling towers.

Poughkeepsie Journal
POUGHKEEPSIE, N. Y.
D. 35,739 SUN. 41,003

JAN 8 1976

MDNS 032928