Reid Raps Nuclear Plan

State Environmental Conservation Commissioner Ogden Reid said Sunday it is "unconscionable" that the state's master plan for a $3.2 billion nuclear power complex in Ulster County makes no mention of the radiation dangers of nuclear power plants.

Speaking at the annual meeting of the Hudson River Sloop Restoration, Inc. at Marist College, Reid was critical of the state Energy and Research and Development Authority (ERDA), the agency which prepared the master plan on the 2,200-acre site in the Towns of Lloyd and Esopus.

He said he would personally contact James Cline, the chairman of ERDA, to seek to have the agenda of the state's hearing on the nuclear power complex scheduled for Jan. 7, released as soon as possible. To date, Cline has ignored requests to release the agenda and some sources have indicated Cline does not plan to inform the public about the makeup of the hearing before the hearing date.

"We must let the people know well in advance" the format of the hearing, Reid said, according to Janine Selendy, an employe of the state Department of Environmental Conservation,, who was present at the session.

In a wide-ranging question and answer period, Reid also noted the following:

—No decision has yet been made on whether to ban shad fishing in the Hudson River next year, because of the high level of "PCB's (polychlorinated biphenyls) in the Hudson. He said the state is still examining the data which has been accumulated.

—The state has not adequately followed up on the problem of mercury contamination in the Hudson River and specifically at Poughkeepsie. He said the state plans to conduct ongoing and in depth investigations of contamination of PCB's, mercury, and other chemicals in the Hudson River.

—The state would welcome a meeting with the independent scientists who have been critical of the ERDA's reports on the proposed nuclear site at Lloyd.

—The state is interested in conducting, for the first time, an indepth investigation of the Hudson River's wildlife and of future uses of the river. To date, the only systematic investigations which have been conducted along the river have been by utilities interested in constructing power plants and many environmentalists have questioned the objectivity of these studies.

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