

Shoreham Could Cost 35,000 Jobs

Union Associates of Chicago and New York recently presented to the County Executive and the Legislature a report entitled "Operation Vs. Abandonment of the Shoreham Nuclear Power Plant: The Effect on Long Island's Employment."

This report was presented in October but its impact was lost in the heat of the election campaigns.

The first paragraph of the executive summary is chilling: "If LILCO charges the entire cost of the Shoreham Nuclear Plant to local ratepayers, rates will rise by no less than \$900 million per year. According to our model of the Long Island economy, this decline in local business and consumer income will cause a loss of 20,853 jobs. Furthermore, we expect the loss of an additional 14,288 jobs caused by the flight of manufacturing industries from Long Island, 35,141 jobs lost in all."

This represents a total of \$5,250,000,000 in payroll. A loss of this size would mean economic devastation to the banks, the business community, the governments and residents. This would be the cost of allowing this mistake to go uncorrected.

The correction process was outlined to the Shoreham Commission in the final day of testimony by Jerrold Oppenheim, assistant attorney general in charge of energy and utilities. He spelled out clearly for all who wanted to hear, that the "used and useful laws" clearly apply to all utilities in New York State. That if it could be demonstrated Shoreham should not open for safety reasons, the

plant will neither be "used nor useful" and therefore could not legally be charged to the ratepayers.

The miscalculations of creating Shoreham would be absorbed by the corporation, their stockholders and creditors. Even if the safety issues could be overcome, which we doubt, the excess capacity created by Shoreham would make the project a candidate for the used and useful principle again. This excess capacity, and its cost, could not be built into the rate base.

Union Associates' report very graphically puts the economic survival of a mismanaged corporation against the economic survival of the Long Island business and residential communities. It's them or us.

Even if the laws are twisted and changed to favor LILCO the rate increases sought by LILCO, if granted, would break the community and, in turn, break the corporation. Long Island cannot survive a loss of 35,000 jobs and neither can LILCO.

Mistakes are meant to be corrected. Shoreham was a mistake, as were the management actions that brought it about. The Governor of the State of New York has it within his power to order the Public Service Commission to invoke the laws that are currently on the books, to correct the mistake of Shoreham, to save Long Island from economic depression and ruination.

Cuomo is untried as leader. Will he have the courage to do what is right for the people and face the opposition of the financial interests that want the people to pay for management errors? Time will tell.

And why not?

More Than Brookhaven

Brookhaven Democrats are, according to reports, selecting a new leader. This is welcomed news but we suggest it should be just a beginning. If the Democrats are serious about being victorious they should seek new county leadership as well.

It's been disheartening, believing in

the two party system, to interview candidates from the Democratic Party on the county and some town levels and fully realize that, although they are the better candidates, they have no chance of being elected because their party is incapable of running a meaningful campaign.

Democrats who have been successful have had to run their whole campaign from scratch. They have built their own campaign organization, raised their own funds, devised their own campaign strategy, receiving little or no help from county or town organizations. We are not speaking of the East End towns. With the exception of Southampton, we are talking specifically of Brookhaven and Islip and the county. Dominic Baranello, the current Democratic county leader and former state chairman is a likeable, humorous man. When he was younger he had the drive and determination to win. Whether it is age or complacency, we do not know, that has changed. When he became state leader he took his eyes off the ball in Suffolk. When he returned, he seemed to lack the zest for victory.

The Democrats over the years have produced some nerds as candidates, but they have also produced some brilliant public servants who, if elected, would have given us better government than what we currently are receiving.

The Democratic organization, minus the help that labor unions provide, is not much more effective than the Conservatives. Candidates face enormous uphill battles in registrations alone, yet are expected

to go forth and win elections without organizational help or funds to pay for expensive media campaigns. When it appears that they may have a chance of winning, the state Democratic organization sends troops from Albany and Brooklyn which are as much of a hindrance as a help.

The Democratic Party has valid viewpoints that need to be expressed, both through campaigns and through elected officials. To have their philosophy espoused correctly, the candidates must have both organizations and funds. New aggressive leadership that is imaginative, forceful and determined to win, is needed to strengthen the organizations and bolster the treasuries.

In selecting a new leader in Brookhaven, the committeemen and the rank and file would be wise to go outside of the old inner circle, seeking new strengths and ideas. Baranello should seek out a replacement for himself on the county level who could bring to this office new imagination and new vitality.

Suffolk desperately needs an effective two party system of government, but is being denied it by the lack of effective leadership.

It's time for a change.

And why not?

The Joy of Giving

Last year a group of us were away for the weekend. While reflecting upon how lucky we were, one of the members of our group suggested we pool our resources to give a memorable Christmas to a family who would not have one because of circumstances beyond their control.

Many community organizations give to those who are in need and easily identified. There are others who have worked hard but, because of illness, tragedy or other unforeseen circumstances, will go without.

We found such a family, a mother and a couple of kids whose Christmas past had been a solid meal, a pair of socks and a pair of gloves. Under the tree last year these children found an electric train set, donated by one of our members who, himself, had longed for this traditional gift but whose parents could never afford it. Toys and games of various descriptions were bought and donated. New winter jackets, pants and shirts, pots and pans, a sweater and robe, given by people who appreciated what they had. Food for the day and to carry the family through the cold months ahead was also included.

Each of us felt a little better last Christmas, and will do our "thing" again this year.

It's totally anonymous, the recipient does not know the donors. The donors do not know the recipient. Our group of donors includes just plain people who care about others who are trying hard to make it in the cold world, offering them a hand from those of us who are making it and appreciate that fact and are thankful to God for having made it possible.

We have enough in our fund for about one and a half families this year. Last year, when people heard of our anonymous project, they asked if they could help also. The answer is yes. You will not receive a tax deductible receipt as we are not an organized charity, but every dollar raised will be spent frugally and, hopefully, with meaning.

If you would like to contribute, or if you know a family that will not have a Christmas because of circumstances beyond their control, write The Group, c-o Suffolk Life Newspapers, P.O. Box 262, Westhampton, New York 11977.

And why not?

Letter to the editor

Dear Mr. Willmott:

We live and my husband works on Long Island. Although a doubling (or more) of our electric bill would hurt us, my husband's business moving off the island or closing would be far worse. True, low cost PASNY power would be a blessing to everyone, but if it helps Long Island businesses, that too helps us all.

I hope this suit won't slow PASNY power from coming to one or all, and I hope this suit isn't a case of biting your nose to spite your face.

I enjoy your paper and its thorough Shoreham coverage, and for this I send my \$5 and will gladly continue my subscription. Sincerely,
A. Kohlmann

Editor's Note: The Power for the People suit, which currently is awaiting a judge's decision on a series of motions, is not intended to prevent businesses from getting low cost PASNY power. It is, however, designed to insure that the public is considered when the allocation of such power is determined. It would have been far better for all the people on Long Island if the initial efforts to secure PASNY power had been on behalf of all the people—the businesses and the residents. When business started to strike out on its own for its share of the low cost power, Suffolk Life made the determination to demand a fair share for the public, which will suffer serious financial impact without it.

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Turning Consensus Into Confusion

The Shoreham Report was delivered to the governor and presented to the press and the public last week. At the press conference, to "Newsday's" delight, Nassau County's representative, William Ronan, attempted to turn the affair into a circus.

Newsday had set the ground with fears, innuendos and charges that no consensus had been reached. The reason was obvious. Newsday, Nassau County, The Long Island Association of Commerce and Industry and LILCO, did not want a consensus derived from such diverse people that made up Governor Mario Cuomo's Shoreham Commission.

After 15 day-long meetings, additional sub-committee meetings during the last weekend of September and the first day of October, a consensus was hammered out, into which all sides had input. There was give and take on both sides. On the ten key points, the pro-LILCO and pro-safety people argued long and hard. Moderation finally prevailed, and we agreed on the ten consensus points.

On November 19, the commission met in full body for the last time. The meeting was called to go over the language of the consensus. Again both sides made points and left the meeting in agreement that we, as a commission, could and would support the ten consensus points. It was also agreed commission members would have an opportunity to either explain our positions, or to expand on them in reports offered individually or by group.

Mr. Ronan, although having missed - or only attended briefly - many of the commission hearings, was present at both these meetings. He, in fact, participated in the process of developing the consensus. His outburst at the press conference was cheap theatrics, an embarrassment to the high esteem in which he had been held, and to Nassau County, the L.I.A. and LILCO, whom he represented.

The report itself, is a document containing not only viewpoints but hard facts that the governor can make some hard decisions from.

We were, however, dismayed to have found subterfuge in the area covering economics. Some points

made in that portion of the report were not discussed or agreed upon by the commission. In fact, on the matter of taxes, we had agreed they represent only "transfer" payments and therefore would have no effect on the financial outcome of operation or abandonment. The fact is that LILCO doesn't pay the taxes out of profits, the ratepayers pay the taxes as part of their bills.

Conspicuously missing in the first section of the report were facts offered by Jerrold Oppenheim, assistant attorney general in charge of energy and utilities, who addressed the commission on the "used and useful" principle, which is the public's out concerning Shoreham. "Used and useful" is the law of New York State. It is found in Article 9, Section 1-f of the Constitution of the State of New York, Section 72 of the Public Service Law of the State of New York, and Section 61.5 of Title 16 of the New York Code of Rules and Regulations.

It states: "Under this doctrine, if a facility fails to operate, that failure resides financially in those who voluntarily undertook that risk - the private investors."

The "used and useful" doctrine is applied regularly in standard regulatory rate-making; the value and-or cost of a plant under construction is excluded from the rate base, pending the construction's transformation into an actual operating useful and usable facility. If the facility passes this litmus of public value, its value may then be added into the rate base figure used to calculate the utility's rates.

Under this doctrine of law, the ratepayers are protected from abuse and misuse by the utilities. They are protected both in a case where a utility cannot put a facility into operation for any reason and they are also protected against a utility building more capacity than is needed to meet the current demands. Both these cases clearly relate to LILCO and Shoreham.

It is in these sections of the law the governor can find the cold, hard facts to act on behalf of the people. Yet, the state staff deliberately left this information out of the Shoreham report. The governor should ask why.

What was also left out of the report, which is cataclysmic, are the facts developed by the Sandia National Laboratory for the United States Congress of what the actual ramifications of a worse case accident at the Shoreham Nuclear Plant would be.

They are as follows: Peak Early Fatalities - 40,000; Peak Early Injuries - 75,000; Peak Cancer Deaths - 35,000; Peak Fatal Radius (miles) 17.5; Peak Injury Radius (miles) 50, and Scaled Cost (damage in billions) - \$157 billion.

When the commission was developed, we were asked specifically to give the governor facts. These facts are found in the master report, but not up front where they should be. The governor now must make hard decisions, not based on emotional theatrics. His only decision must be to protect the people. Under Public Service Law, according to the attorney general, who is the lawyer for the people of the State of New York and the governor, the Public Service Commission has it within its power to halt construction on the plant immediately, to stop the financial devastation that will be caused whether Shoreham goes on line or it doesn't.

Further, the attorney general has stated that if the plant is not useful, the stockholders, bondholders and investors in LILCO must assume the financial responsibility for this mistake. The law is there, it only takes a governor who takes his oath of office seriously, and is desirous of

protecting the people, to enforce it.

As the conclusion to our report said, "In the final conclusion, the governor must decide which is more important: the corporation, its owners and investors; or the people who are residents of the area surrounding Shoreham and the service area of the Long Island Lighting Company."

From the first day the commission was convened, to the final writing of this report, the cost of Shoreham has gone from \$3.2 billion to at least \$4.2 billion, an increase of over 30 per cent in a period of four months. The clock is ticking, just on interest alone, at an additional cost of \$1.4 million per day.

When we started our discussions it appeared that loading for low power testing was as little as four months away. Those four months have now passed, and the earliest projections are now 20 months for low power operations to begin, if then.

It is imperative that the governor make the hard decision now: order the PSC to cut the losses by putting an end to the Shoreham Nuclear Power Plant based on both safety and economics. Every day the governor waits causes the indebtedness to rise by millions of dollars.

Tough decisions are hard to make. It takes a tough man to make hard decisions.

When all rhetoric is put aside, when all findings are weighed, it simply comes down to the question: are people more important than money? Or is money more important than people?

And why not?

If You Party, Don't Drink Then Drive

If it is your thing, drink all you want, get as drunk as you can stand, but before you do, give your keys to someone else and secure a ride home. A more moderate approach that any prudent person would decide is drink if you have to, but in moderation, and still plan for someone else not drinking to drive home.

It is pretty much of a cold, hard fact that someone reading this paper today will either be killed or severely injured by the time 1983 passes because they did not heed this advice. Will it be you?

Are you ready to give up your life? Maybe even worse yet, to spend the rest of your life a paraplegic, a vegetable, because you decided you were big enough to drink and still

drive?

Don't be a fool, there is no guarantee that because you got away with it before, you can get away with it again. Don't get upset at your friends taking your keys or disabling your car, they are people who care. Those who don't will let you go onto the road in a drunken state to kill or be killed.

Remember, the maximum amount of booze your system can absorb under normal circumstances is one ounce or one beer per hour. Alcohol has a cumulative effect, the longer you drink, the more it builds up in your system.

Don't drink, stay alive and the party will be a lot more fun.

And why not?

Merry Christmas

Stop for a moment, think, what is the season of madness really all about?

No, it isn't tinsel and Christmas trees, Santa and reindeer, running over to Grandma, loud office parties and one for the road.

It isn't spending money on gifts for others in hopes of getting back something bigger and better in exchange.

Christmas is the birthday of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It's the day the Christian world celebrates the gates of heaven being opened for those who believe and live the examples and the teachings of Christ. His message and his life were very simple, love and peace, kindness and consideration,

helping ourselves so that we may help others.

Let each of us this Christmas look at our own lives so that we may find out whether we have lived in His image in the past so that we can serve Him better in the future.

The entire staff here at Suffolk Life wishes to thank our readers and our advertisers for the favors that they have bestowed upon us. It has been a pleasure to be of service to our community.

We wish everyone a joyous Christmas, a prosperous and health filled New Year. May God bless you all. Have a merry.

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