April 19, 2000

MEMORANDUM TO: William D. Travers
Executive Director for Operations

THRU: Samuel J. Collins, Director ***/RA/***
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: Brian W. Sheron, Associate Director ***/RA/***
for Project Licensing and Technical Analysis
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: MARCH 2000 REPORT ON THE STATUS OF PUBLIC PETITIONS UNDER 10 CFR 2.206

The attached monthly report gives the status of 10 CFR 2.206 petitions as of March 31, 2000, except for recent developments related to the Salem and Indian Point 2 petitions. During March 2000, three new petitions, one on Indian Point Unit 2 (G20000133), one on Envirocare of Utah/Snake River Alliance (G20000138,136), and one on Salem Units 1 & 2 (G2000111) were received for processing. Thus, there are six open petitions: four in the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) and two in the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS).

Attachment 1 provides the status of petitions for NRR and NMSS. Attachment 2 gives the status of petitions that are in a confidential status and is for internal distribution only. Attachment 3 shows the age and staff hours expended on open 2.206 petitions as of March 31, 2000, including a summary of the status of 2.206 petitions exceeding the 120-day scheduled completion goal. Attachment 4 shows the statistics for the 2.206 petitions processed in the past 12 months.

Those parts of the monthly report not of a sensitive nature, and recently issued Director's Decisions, are placed in the Agencywide Document Access and Management System (ADAMS) and on the NRC's external home page, making them readily accessible to the public. The URL address is http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/PUBLIC/2206/index.html.

Attachments: As stated

CONTACT: Ram Subbaratnam, NRR
415-1478

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CONTACT: Ram Subbaratnam, NRR
415-1478

*See previous concurrence

ACCESSION NUMBER ML003704387 DISTRIBUTION: See next page

OFFICE	PM:PDII	LA:PDII	SC:PDII	D:PDII	NMSS/IMNS/IMOB	D:DLPM	ADPT:NRR	D: NRR
NAME	RSubbaratnam	Dunnington	RCorreia	HBerkow	PGoldberg*	JZwolinski/SBlack	BSheron	SCollins
	4/17/2000	4/14/2000	4/10/2000	4/17/2000	4/10/2000	4/17/2000	4/18/2000	4/8/2000

* See Previous Concurrence **OFFICIAL RECORD COPY**

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Report on Status of Public Petitions Under 10 CFR 2.206
March 31, 2000
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Attachment 1

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* Denotes new addition to the list

Attachment 1

Report on Status of Public Petitions Under 10 CFR 2.206

Facility:	Moab site of Atlas Corporation (Present Licensee PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, Trustee)
Petitioner:	Earth Justice Legal Defense Fund
Date of Petition:	1/11/99
Director's Decision To Be Issued by:	NMSS
Date Referred to Review Organization:	1/12/99
EDO Number:	G19990011
OGC Number:	P-99-02
Scheduled Completion Date:	TBD*
Last Contact with Petitioner:	3/23/2000
Petition Manager:	Myron Fliegel
Case Attorney:	J. Goldberg

Issues/Action Requested:

The petitioners request NRC to take six immediate actions to halt impacts to and to ensure the conservation of the endangered species of fish in the Colorado River near the Atlas site.

Background:

On August 2, 1988, Atlas submitted an application for a license amendment to revise its site reclamation plan for uranium mill tailings at its no longer operating site near Moab, Utah. On March 30, 1994, a notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement was published in the *Federal Register*. In January 1996, the Draft Environmental Impact Statement was published for public comment. On July 29, 1998, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), issued a final biological opinion for impacts to federally listed endangered species from the reclamation of the Atlas mill tailings site. On October 12, 1998, and November 13, 1998, petitioners notified NRC of their intent to sue under the ESA. On December 16, 1998, petitioners filed a Motion for Preliminary Injunction against NRC in the U.S. District Court, District of Utah.

A petition was filed on January 11, 1999, requesting the NRC to take six immediate actions related to potential impact on endangered fish in the Colorado River due to contaminants from the Atlas Uranium mill tailings pile. A Petition Review Board (PRB) meeting was held on January 26, 1999, and the petitioners' requests for immediate action were denied by a letter of that date. In the letter, it was noted that none of the six items identified in the petition addresses a health, safety, or environmental concern that requires emergency steps before a complete review as provided for in 10 CFR 2.206. An acknowledgment letter for this petition was published in the *Federal Register* on February 12, 1999. On May 13, 1999, the staff received a supplement to the 2.206 petition requesting immediate action on several items: (1) to suspend the issuance of the license amendment to permit reclamation; (2) to initiate a supplemental National Environmental Policy Act process; and (3) to reinitiate consultation with Fish and Wildlife Services under the Endangered Species Act.

Earthjustice had, on January 27, 1999, petitioned the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB) to intervene on the Atlas Corporation's proposal to reclaim the Moab mill tailings and on the cleanup of contaminated groundwater, citing the impacts to the endangered fish in the

Colorado River and its belief that the biological opinion was erroneous. On May 27, 1999, the NRC wrote to the petitioners, acknowledging receipt of the supplement, denying immediate action, and notifying the petitioners that NRC was deferring action on the 2.206 petition, pending a decision by the ASLB on the petitioners' request for a hearing on similar issues.

On September 17, 1999, the staff filed responses to the ASLB presiding officers' questions of July 30, 1999. On September 29, 1999, the staff provided the ASLB with a copy of its September 29, 1999, letter to Dames & Moore, notifying that organization that it had been selected to become the Trustee for the Atlas Moab site, since the Atlas Corporation is in bankruptcy. Copies of both filings were sent to the petitioners. Dames & Moore subsequently withdrew as trustee and PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP was chosen to be the trustee.

On October 18, 1999, Earthjustice filed a petition with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit, arguing that the May 27, 1999, letter and a May 28, 1999, license amendment constitute final agency action and a de facto denial of the 2.206 petition. On November 3, 1999, OGC filed a motion to dismiss for lack of jurisdiction with the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. A copy of the motion was sent to the petitioners. On November 23, 1999, the petitioner filed a response to the NRC motion to dismiss, arguing that the rejection of its request for immediate action and subsequent lack of action on the part of the NRC in issuing a final Director's Decision constitutes a final agency action. NRC filed its reply with the court to the petitioners' response on December 2, 1999.

On October 28, 1999, the ASLB presiding officer found the Earthjustice petition of January 27, 1999, to be timely, and entertained further argument on the issue of petitioners' standing. On November 16, 1999, Earthjustice requested the presiding officer to rule on whether the ASLB has jurisdiction with respect to determining whether NRC has complied with the Endangered Species Act. On December 6, 1999, the staff filed a response arguing that the ASLB should deny the petitioners' November 16, 1999, motion.

On December 27, 1999, an Order transferring source material license SUA-917 from Atlas Corporation to the Maob Mill Reclamation Trust was signed. The Order transfers the license to the Trust and orders the Trust and the Trustee (PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP) to perform reclamation of the uranium mill tailings site in accordance with the terms and conditions of the license. The terms and conditions of the license include reasonable and prudent measures in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's final biological opinion, as well as mitigative measures developed by the NRC staff. The Order was effective December 30, 1999, and was published in the *Federal Register* on January 3, 2000.

On January 13, 2000, the petitioners filed a reply with the ASLB in support of their motion originally filed on November 16, 1999, for a preliminary ruling on jurisdiction. On February 17, 2000, the ASLB granted the petitioners' request for hearing, and the PRB, in consultation with the Office of the General Counsel (OGC), will decide the future course of action on this petition.

Current Status:
The staff in consultation with OGC is deferring action on this 2.206 petition pending resolution of the litigation before the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals and of the petition before the ASLB.

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* Schedule for completion will be set following resolution of the litigation issues.

Facility:	**Indian Point Unit 2**
Petitioner:	D. Lochbaum Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS)
Date of Petition:	9/15/99
Director's Decision To Be Issued by:	NRR
Date Referred to Review Organization:	9/15/99
EDO Number:	G19990465
OGC Number:	-
Scheduled Completion Date:	4/17/2000
Last Contact with Petitioners:	4/7/2000
Petition Manager:	J. Harold
Case Attorney:	J. Goldberg

Issues/Action Requested:

The petitioner requests that the NRC modify or suspend Indian Point Unit 2's (IP2's) operating license to prevent restart until the five identified issues are resolved. In lieu of license modification or suspension, the petitioner requests issuance of a Confirmatory Action Letter or Order requiring the petitioner's identified issues be addressed prior to restart. Additionally, the petitioner requests a public hearing on the petition be conducted in the vicinity of the plant prior to restart. The petition identified five issues, which are as follows: (1) Apparent Violation of Station Battery Design and Licensing Basis; (2) Apparent Failure to Adequately Correct Circuit Breaker Problems; (3) Apparent Unreliability of Emergency Diesel Generators; (4) Potential Unjustified License Amendment for Under-Voltage and Degraded Voltage Relay Surveillance Intervals; and (5) Apparent Errors and Non-Conservatism in Individual Plant Examination. A telephone conference was held on September 22, 1999, between the petitioner and the Petition Review Board (PRB), offering the petitioner an opportunity to articulate, in more detail, the basis for the petition and to allow the staff to ask the petitioner clarifying questions. There were two additional issues provided during the telephone conference call. They are: (1) IP2's ability to cope with a station blackout scenario with current procedures; and (2) the incorporation of licensing commitments into plant procedures.

Background:

In a public meeting held in Region I on September 14, 1999, to discuss a plant trip at IP2 from full power on August 31, 1999, ConEd described the complications of the events that led to the trip and provided a copy of their recovery plan. This plan detailed actions that ConEd viewed as necessary to complete prior to plant restart. On September 15, 1999, the staff received a 10 CFR 2.206 petition from UCS on IP2. A PRB meeting on the petition was held on September 22, 1999. An acknowledgment letter and *Federal Register* notice on the petition were issued on October 8, 1999. The PRB accepted the petition as a valid one pursuant to 10 CFR 2.206. The PRB determined that the petitioner's issues had been identified by the licensee in their September 14,1999, meeting and plant restart was contingent upon implementation of the recovery plan, which would resolve the petitioner's issues. The PRB concurred that several issues in the petition as well as others not addressed need to be resolved prior to restart, thereby partially granting the petition. The PRB also made a decision to request a licensee response to the issues raised in the petition to aid the staff in preparing the acknowledgment letter to the petitioner. The licensee's response dated September 24, 1999, provided information, on the docket, which the staff had already acquired through its ongoing inspection effort. An additional request for additional information was issued on October 1, 1999, and the licensee responded by letter dated October 6, 1999. The staff used

this information in part to prepare the acknowledgment letter, which was issued on October 8, 1999. The staff determined that the immediate enforcement actions the petitioner requested were not appropriate because the short-term actions in the licensee's recovery plan adequately addressed some of the petitioner's issues and all of the restart issues. However, had the licensee not adequately addressed these issues, the staff would have considered enforcement actions. The unit was restarted on October 13, 1999.

The petitioner, in a letter dated October 12, 1999, expressed dissatisfaction that the acknowledgment letter failed to address his safety concerns on the station battery design and licensing basis and the adequate correction of breaker problems. The staff responded to those concerns by letter dated October 25, 1999. The staff determined that the issues raised in the petitioner's October 12, 1999, letter did not change the conclusion of the October 8,1999, acknowledgment letter. However, the staff plans to factor the supplemental information into the final decision on the petition.

Current Status:

The Region I Augmented Inspection Team follow-up inspection report was received on December 21, 1999. An extension to the scheduled completion date was requested to allow incorporation of details of enforcement action from the August 31, 1999, event and to evaluate the February 15, 2000 event, in which IP2 experienced a steam generator tube failure, for any commonalities. The Director's Decision, including details of the enforcement action decisions stated above, is in concurrence and is projected to be issued by mid-April 2000.

Facility:	**Indian Point Unit 3**
Petitioner:	D. Lochbaum, UCS
Date of Petition:	2/10/2000
Director's Decision To Be Issued by:	NRR
Date Referred to Review Organization:	2/10/2000
EDO Number:	G20000062
OGC Number:	-
Scheduled Completion Date:	7/24/2000
Last Contact with Petitioners:	3/24/2000
Petition Manager:	G. Wunder
Case Attorney:	J. Goldberg

Issues/Action Requested:

The petitioner requests that the NRC order the licensee to conduct assessments of the Indian Point 3 (IP3) corrective action program and work environment and to take appropriate action in response to these assessments. The petitioner further requested that these orders be closed before the NRC allows the transfer of the IP3 license. As the basis for the requested action, the petitioner cited allegations by Ms. Rebecca Green, formerly a member of the licensee's Operations Review Group, that her work environment was not safety-conscious. The petitioner also cited various inspection reports, which identified shortcomings in the licensee's corrective action programs, as well as a letter informing the licensee of a potential violation of 10 CFR 50.7 involving discrimination against an employee.

Background:

A Petition Review Board (PRB) meeting was held on February 16, 2000. The petitioner was provided with an opportunity to address the PRB in an open session to articulate the petition, and did so with the licensee present.

The PRB concluded that the petition meets the threshold for processing under 10 CFR 2.206 and the PRB concluded that the details provided in the petitioner's request are found sufficient to warrant further inquiry.

Current Status:

An acknowledgment letter and *Federal Register* notice on the petition were issued on March 24, 2000.

Facility:	**Indian Point Unit 2**
Petitioner:	Mr. David A. Lochbaum, Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS), on behalf of Nuclear Information & Resource Service, PACE Law School Energy Project, and Public Citizen's Critical Mass Energy Project
Date of Petition:	3/14/2000
Director's Decision To Be Issued by:	NRR
Date Referred to Review Organization:	3/14/2000
EDO Number:	G20000133
OGC Number:	-
Scheduled Completion Date:	8/5/2000
Last Contact with Petitioners:	4/7/2000
Petition Manager:	L. Wiens
Case Attorney:	J. Goldberg

Issues/Action Requested:

Petitioners request that the NRC issue an Order to ConEd Company of New York preventing the restart of Indian Point Unit 2 (IP2) until the following conditions are satisfied: (1) all four steam generators (SGs) are replaced; (2) the SG tube integrity concerns identified in Dr. Joram Hopenfeld's Differing Professional Opinion (DPO) and in generic safety issue GSI-163, "Multiple Steam Generator Tube Leakage," are resolved; and (3)Potassium Iodide (KI) tablets are distributed to residents and businesses within the 10-mile emergency planning zone or stockpiled in the vicinity of the IP2 facility. The petitioners also requested that a public meeting be held in the vicinity of the IP2 facility as soon as possible.

Background:

Petition Review Board (PRB) meetings were held on March 16, 2000, and March 21, 2000. The petitioners were provided with an opportunity to address the PRB in an open session during the initial March 16, 2000 meeting, and did so with the licensee present.

Current Status:

This is a new petition. The PRB concluded that the petitioners' first request meets the threshold for processing under 10 CFR 2.206 and also concluded that the details provided in the petitioners' request were found sufficient to warrant further inquiry. However, the PRB determined that the request to order IP2 to remain shut down until Dr. Hopenfeld's DPO is resolved and until KI tablets are distributed or stockpiled (requests 2 & 3) did not meet the requirements of the 2.206 process, in that they were generic issues and were not specific to IP2. The petitioners' request for a public meeting was granted and conducted on April 7, 2000. An acknowledgment letter and *Federal Register* notice on the petition were issued on April 5, 2000.

Dr. Hopenfeld issued a memo to Dr. Travers on April 5, 2000, which he characterized as a "supplement to my DPO regarding Multiple Steam Generator Leakage." Also, by letter dated April 12, 2000, Public Citizen's Critical Mass Energy Project supplemented the petition with regard to the KI issue, and by letter dated April 14, 2000, the UCS supplemented the petition with regard to the DPO. The PRB will reconsider whether these two issues meet the criteria for consideration under 10 CFR 2.206.

Facility:	**Salem Nuclear Units 1 & 2**
Petitioner:	Norm Cohen UNPLUG Salem Campaign
Date of Petition:	2/22/2000
Director's Decision To Be Issued by:	NRR
Date Referred to Review Organization:	3/1/2000
EDO Number:	G20000111
OGC Number:	-
Scheduled Completion Date:	TBD
Last Contact with Petitioners:	4/7/2000
Petition Manager:	R. Fretz
Case Attorney:	J. Goldberg

Issues/Action Requested:

The petitioner requests that the NRC order the Salem Generating Station, Units 1 and 2, to be immediately shut down so that their steam generators (SGs) can be completely checked out by both NRC inspectors and by independent scientists so as to assure the people of South Jersey and Delaware that these two plants are indeed safe to operate. The petitioner later expanded this concern during the presentation to the Petition Review Board (PRB) (see below) that certain members of the public are concerned that either one of the Salem units could experience an SG tube rupture, and that the "public lacks the confidence in the NRC" to ensure the safe operation of the Salem Generating Station given the event at Indian Point, Unit 2.

Background:

The PRB met on this petition on March 14, 2000, and March 21, 2000. The petitioner was provided with an opportunity to address the PRB in an open session during the March 14, 2000 meeting, and did so with the licensee present.

Current Status:

This is a new petition. The NRC staff is not aware of any recently identified violations at Salem Units 1 & 2 associated with the SG inspections that are covered under the inservice inspection program. NRC inspection reports (No. 05000272 & 311/1999004) found the SGs' condition satisfactory. Mr. Cohen's request does not present any plant-specific information, nor anything substantial or new over previous agency considerations on SG issues. As such, the petitioner's request does not meet the screening criteria threshold per Management Directive 8.11 (pages 8 and 9) for accepting the petition under 10 CFR 2.206. Therefore, the PRB recommended that the Petition Manager prepare a reply letter explaining that the request will not be treated as a 2.206 petition, and the staff will address the issues raised by the petitioners under the controlled correspondence process. The letter was issued on April 17, 2000. The letter provided the technical basis for the acceptability of Salem's SGs. Any generic concerns identified during the review of the IP2 tube failure will be considered for application to other pressurized water reactors, including Salem.

Facility:	**Envirocare of Utah & Snake River Alliance**
Petitioner:	L. Bickwit, Jr.
Date of Petition:	3/13/2000
Director's Decision To Be Issued by:	NMSS
Date Referred to Review Organization:	3/16/2000
EDO Number:	G2000138, G2000136
OGC Number:	-
Scheduled Completion Date:	TBD
Last Contact with Petitioners:	3/27/2000
Petition Manager:	J. Lusher
Case Attorney:	J. Goldberg

Issues/Action Requested:

Snake River Alliance is requesting that the NRC: (1) take jurisdiction of 11e.(2) material; (2) take action to ensure the workers and the public are fully protected from radiation exposure; and (3) enforce the AEA and NRC's regulation governing disposal of mill tailings byproduct material as defined in section 11e.(2) of Uranium Mill Tailing Radiation Control Act of 1978 (UMTRCA). Envirocare of Utah contends that the Commission's current interpretation of UMTRCA is erroneous and that it should be revised as soon as possible. It also requests that the NRC recognize its authority over all section 11.e.(2) material, and should take appropriate enforcement action to ensure that all such material is disposed of at section 11e.(2)-licensed facilities.

Background:

The Executive Director for Operations has agreed in principle that the petitions from Snake River Alliance and Envirocare of Utah can be consolidated and handled as one petition because the requested actions are similar per Management Directive (MD) 8.11, Page 9. This will be finalized in the Petition Review Board (PRB) meeting now scheduled for April 11, 2000. The petitioners, in accordance with MD 8.11, are being provided with an opportunity to address the PRB in an open session to articulate the petition, with the owners of the facility present.

Current Status:

This is a new petition.

Attachment 3

AGE AND RESOURCE EXPENDITURES FOR AGENCY 2.206 OPEN PETITIONS

As of March 31, 2000

ASSIGNED ACTION OFFICE	PETITION NUMBER	OGC NUMBER	FACILITY	AGE (months)*	Scheduled Completion Date	Resources Expended by Action Office (HOURS)[1]	Resources Expended by OGC (HOURS)[1]	Comments if not meeting the Agency's 120-day Completion Goal
NMSS	G19990011	P-99-02	ATLAS CORPORATION	13	TBD[2]	5	44.5	Earthjustice filed a petition with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit regarding the staff's de facto denial of the 2.206 petition. Staff action deferred pending resolution of the litigation before the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals and the petition before the ASLB
NRR	G1990465	-	INDIAN POINT UNIT 2	5	4/17/2000[2]	488.0	17.5	Incorporation of additional enforcement action from 8/31/99 event into the DD. The DD is currently projected for issuance by mid-April 2000.
NRR	G20000062	-	INDIAN POINT UNIT 3	-	7/24/2000	35.0	1.0	
NMSS	G2000138,136		ENVIROCARE OF UTAH/SNAKE RIVER ALLIANCE	-	TBD*	28.5	4.0	
NRR	G2000111		SALEM UNITS 1 & 2	-	TBD*	73.0	9.0	
NRR	G20000133	-	INDIAN POINT UNIT 2	-	8/5/2000	118.0	-	

[1] Staff professional time only; does not include management or administrative time.

[2] Projected completion date (Please see Attachment 1 for explanation).

*Age calculated from the date of the acknowledgment letter.

Attachment 4
Report on Status of Public Petitions
Under 10 CFR 2.206 for DDs Issued and/or Closed During the Last 12 Months

Petition Number	Assigned Action Office	Facility	Petition Date	DD Date	Age at Closure[1,2]	Comments
G199980707	NRR	Diablo Canyon	11/24/98	3/12/99	2	Denied
G980199	NRR	Browns Ferry	4/5/98	3/29/99	11	Denied
G19980622	NMSS	FUSRAP	10/15/98	3/26/99	3	Denied
G19980678	NRR	Perry	11/9/98	4/18/99	4	Denied
G980592	NRR	River Bend	9/25/98	4/18/99	5	Denied
603	NRR	Millstone	8/21/95	7/27/99	45	Partly Granted
G19990173	OE	Seabrook	3/31/99	8/3/99	3	Denied
GT97181	NRR	Connecticut Yankee	3/11/97	9/9/99	29	Partly Granted
G19980767	NMSS	Enviro Care of Utah	12/30/98	7/12/99	5	Granted
G19990201	NRR	Millstone	3/31/99	9/28/99	4	Denied
G19990224	NRR	Nine Mile Point 1 & 2	4/5/99	10/28/99	4	Denied
G19990268	NRR	Nine Mile Point 1	5/24/99	11/28/99	5	Denied
GT96919	NRR	Millstone 1, 2 & 3	11/25/96, as amended 12/23/96	2/16/2000	37	Partly Granted

1) Age calculated from the date of the acknowledgment letter.
2) Goals: Acknowledgment letter issued within 5 weeks from date of receipt; DD issued within 4 months of acknowledgment letter.