

THE HEMPSTEAD TOWN LANDS RESOURCES COUNCIL

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December 7, 1965

Dr. Glenn T. Seaborg
Chairman
Atomic Energy Commission
Washington, D. C. 20545

Dear Dr. Seaborg:

I have been instructed by my membership to determine the position of the Atomic Energy Commission in regard to fish protective matters. We feel this is particularly important in view of the announced expansion of the Con Edison Indian Point plant.

It is our understanding that the Atomic Energy Commission accepts as its responsibility planning for safety from a standpoint of all radiation hazards, and considers such matters in the issuance of a license to build an atomic electrical generating plant. The thing which at the moment is unclear is who has the authority to protect the ecology and natural resources of the area from such factors as thermal pollution, or any secondary pollution from cleaning chemicals or other matters? What authority has control over these factors within the Atomic Energy Commission licensing process? What weight is given the protection of resources from other than radiation hazards in licensing? And, if thermal pollution is found to be a factor or is potentially a factor, what power has any authority over the license or the actual design of the plant in regard to the intake and outfall of water and the maintenance of water quality in areas adjacent to the proposed plant?

In view of the experience at Indian Point, sports fishermen and conservationists are deeply concerned with these matters in future installations. The New York State Conservation Department has at least by implication, if not by direct statement, suggested that the Atomic Energy Commission, having licensed the Con Edison Indian Point plant initially, is the only authority which can control, or could have controlled, fish kills by heat pollution or faulty design at the plant.

I have further been instructed by the Board of Directors to determine the last possible date for intervention in hearings regarding the proposed expansion at Indian Point, and the grounds upon which intervention will be allowed.

Sincerely,


Rod Vandivert
Chairman

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