

United States Senate

Respectfully referred to

.....Atomic Energy Commission.....

for such consideration as the communication
herewith submitted may warrant, and for a report
thereon, in duplicate to accompany return of
inclosure.

By direction of

FROM THE OFFICE OF
SENATOR JACOB K. JAVITS
NEW YORK

U. S. S.

GPO 16-7147-2

8110310056 710206
PDR ADDCK 05000247
U PDR

DR-3105

AEC

Senator Jacob Javits
Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C.

CLEAN

FEB 8 1971

50-247

Feb. 6, 1971

CITIZENS LEAGUE FOR EDUCATION ABOUT NUCLEAR-ENERGY INC. BOX 1087, NEW ROCHELLE, N.Y. 10802

Dear Senator Javits:

CLEAN deplores the arrogance of Con Ed because of their intention to start the power testing of Indian Point #2 without even having obtained an AEC operating permit license. According to the New Rochelle Standard Star dated Jan. 20, 1971, the three-member board of the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB) posed several questions to Con Ed counsel and engineers which so far as we know have not been answered. These questions were: concern about the sensitivity of the plant's radiation monitoring systems; provisions for warning the public in the event of an accident at the plant; and the potential effectiveness of the plant's emergency cooling system. Without having the answers to these questions, jeopardy to the lives and the well-being of thousands of residents of Westchester County are in danger. We are appealing to you to do whatever you can to halt the start-up of this nuclear power reactor.

We are also calling on you to ask for a moratorium of all nuclear power reactors until there has been more experience and knowledge with the huge reactors now being planned for population centers. This experience should be gathered by locating these nuclear furnaces in remote areas.

Enclosed you will find an article written by Congressman Reid who states his opposition to nuclear power ~~far more~~ eloquently. On the reverse side is a reprint of a letter written by Senator Mike Gravel.

We are sure that you will take whatever steps necessary to insure us of a man-made radiation free environment.

Sincerely yours,
Mrs. Milton Kurtz
Mrs. Milton Kurtz
for
CLEAN

STEERING COMMITTEE: JACK J. ADLER, M.D., GEORGE C. ARCARO, DIANE DE BENEDICTIS, JACK DONAGHY, DAVID HAFT, M.D., ARTHUR HARRIS, MILDRED KURTZ, DANA R. LEVY, IRVING MICHELSON, PEARL A. RHOMBERG, JOAN RUMBERG, M.D., MANNIE M. SCHECHTER, M.D., EMANUEL V. SORGE, Ph.D.

AK

3105

Reid Opposes Motion

Urges AEC Not To Approve Con Edison's 2nd Plant

By Congressman Ogden Reid

I very much value this opportunity to express my opposition to the granting of an operating license for unit 2 of the Indian Point Nuclear Station at this time.

It is my understanding that two of the questions to be considered during this hearing are "whether there is reasonable assurance . . . that the activities authorized by the operating license can be conducted without endangering the health and safety of the public" and "whether the issuance of the license will be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public." It is to these points that I wish to direct the attention of the board.

Unknown Damage

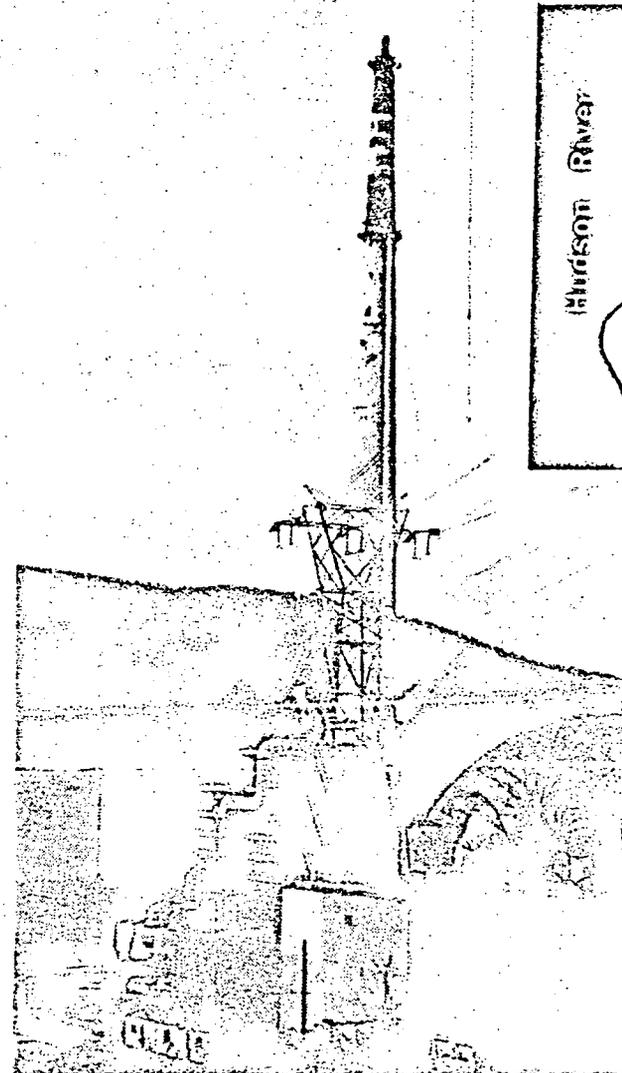
As I have indicated on previous occasions, my principal concern with regard to the proliferation of nuclear plants in this country is the unknown damage which may be resulting from the radioactive emissions from the plants. That question continues to be cause for grave concern, in view of the fact that 12 plants are currently being planned for the Long Island Sound Region and another 4-5 units will be constructed by Con Edison on the Hudson River. It is my understanding that the concentration of radionuclides contained in plant emissions (particularly tritium, 90Sr, 131I, and 137Cs) can increase, and changes in distribution can occur, along the path of nutrition, or food chain. This factor is of serious concern to members of the general public, and should be given due consideration during this hearing.

Aside from concern over concentration of radionuclides in the food chain, Drs. John Gofman and Arthur Tamplin have repeatedly testified that, if everyone in the United States received the allowable radiation doses under FRC guidelines, there could well be 32,000 extra cases of cancer plus leukemia annually in the United States. I realize that everyone in the United States does not receive the maximum permissible dose, and that Con Edison has stated that "the combined releases from all three units (at Indian Point) are expected to be far below the regulatory limits." However, I would hope that the board will require that Con Edison adopt the safeguards recommended in the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare's environmental report, require careful monitoring of the radioactive emissions from the plant, and require that the level of such emissions be reduced to the lowest level possible to minimize the risks involved, as prior conditions for the approval of any operating license. Con Ed's responsibility does not end with conformity to the AEC's standards, which are inadequate.

Sacrificing The Environment

Those of us who live in the Northeast are all painfully aware of the demand for more and more power to keep subways, air conditioners, elevators, and numerous household appliances running. However, in my judgment, we will eventually regret it if we sacrifice concern for our environment to the demand for power - the environment cannot be repaired once it is destroyed; but power requirements can be reduced by eliminating non-essential uses during periods of peak demand.

Further, it is not beyond the ingenuity of technology or our country to develop essentially non-polluting sources of power - through the use of essentially non-polluting fossil fuels or hydroelectric power. Technology should not force the government or the public to choose between inadequate power or pollution; hopefully, we can in the future have planned



Make Number Two

Although Con Edison has already built its nuclear Atomic Energy Commission is going through the give Con Ed an operating license. Inset shows prevailing westerly winds capable of carrying

increases in power that are non-polluting. To make that possible, we need stepped-up research in this area, for the public will refuse to believe that there is no alternative to atomic power. This is a task industry can and must face.

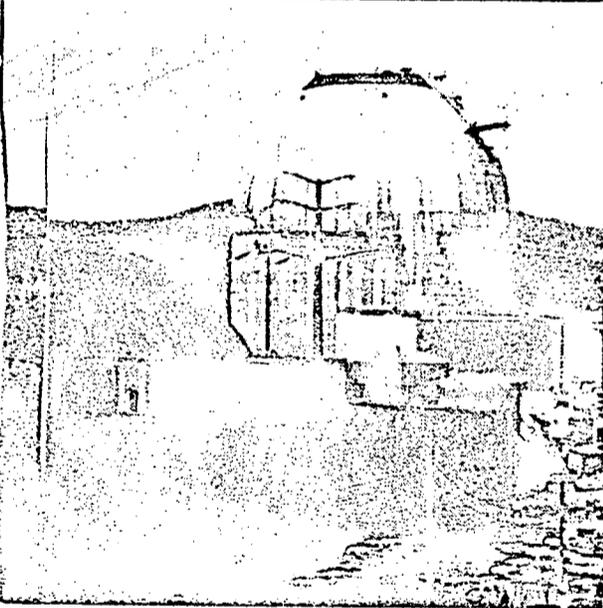
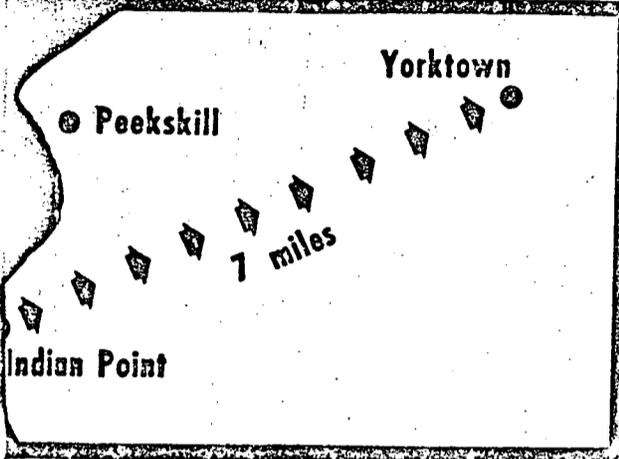
With regard to the environment, I would urge that Con Edison and this board heed the warning of the Department of the Interior that "we believe it premature for the applicant to conclude . . . that on the basis of investigations and studies conducted to date . . . Unit 2 will have no significant adverse impact on the ecology of the Hudson River." The fish kills which took place last winter at Indian Point Unit 1 have still not been satisfactorily explained, and there is no assurance that they will not be repeated at Unit 2, even in the face of the additional precautions being taken by Con Edison. Furthermore, I am seriously disturbed by the statement that small organisms - plankton and fish eggs and larvae - will be carried through the system with the cooling water and heated significantly before being discharged. No one knows what effect this might have on the ecology of the Hudson River and of Long Island Sound, into which it flows; it seems

Rec'd Off. Dir. of Reg.
Date 2/16/71
Time 4:00

the Nukes

prove

ant



Is Already Up

power plant number two (high dome at right) the normality of holding hearings on whether or not to Yorktown 7 miles from Indian Point, in the path of radioactive wastes over the Yorktown area.

to me to be foolhardy to risk further impairment of the ecological balance of the Hudson at this time. Thermal pollution is of course a question of continuing concern in the development of all nuclear power units.

Absent persuasive answers to the serious questions which have been raised about the safety of nuclear power and its effect on health and environment, and absent thoughtful research in this area, we should not, in my judgment, proceed with construction of additional power plants on the Hudson River and Long Island Sound. The population in this area is simply too large to risk exposure to unknown dangers. If convincing answers to the questions can be provided, then there is no doubt that we can use additional power - but if we must choose between additional power accompanied by destruction of our environment, or power shortages accompanied by clean air and water and uncontaminated food, then I would choose to do without a few electrical appliances. I urge the board to hold this application in abeyance until all the relevant factors have been considered and we can be certain that the public health and welfare, and our environment, are being stringently protected.

Letters to the Editor

Alternatives to Nuclear Power

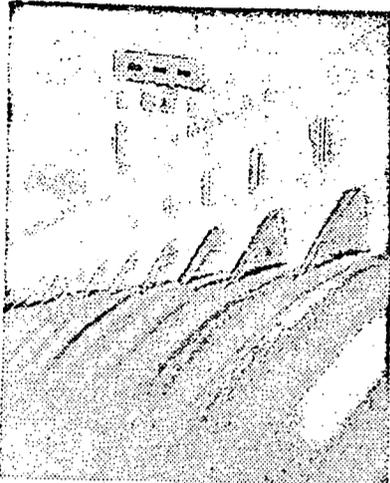
To the Editor:

I would like to take issue with Dr. Glenn Seaborg's remarks [Op-Ed article Dec. 28] "Do We Need Nuclear Power?"

A plan to make this country dependent for its electrical energy on radioactivity—the worst conceivable pollutant and threat to life—might be dismissed as simply irrational and possibly of questionable morality if anyone of lesser stature than Dr. Seaborg were proposing it.

When the Atomic Energy Commissioners compare radiation exposures from nuclear power plants to exposures from luminous wrist watches and airplane trips, they are talking about today's exposure. Today there are barely twenty relatively small nuclear power plants newly in operation. There has been no time for accumulation and reconcentration of their radioactive effluents in the environment, and there has been no experience at all with the bigger reactors to indicate how much radioactivity they will release in fact, not theory.

It is intellectually devious for nuclear enthusiasts to limit their remarks to today's radiation exposure, when the A.E.C. itself projects the construction of 600 large nuclear power plants in the next thirty years, and when two A.E.C. Commissioners testified last year that they cannot reduce the A.E.C.'s permissible effluent levels because they have no idea what the big plants will actually put out. ("Environmental Effects of Producing Electrical Power," hearings before the



Washington State Advertising Commission

Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, Part 1).

If this country actually does build 600 nuclear power plants, those plants will produce each and every year about as much long-lived radioactivity as 500,000 Hiroshima bombs. If just one-tenth of 1 per cent of it escaped into the environment annually, that would equal the contamination from 500 such bombs every year.

The remarks and speeches of all the Commissioners present one side. They invariably gloss over the hard questions about accidents, sabotage, evacuation plans and cost of building underground. They neglect to mention uninsurability, plutonium theft for bomb-making, "permissible" levels of contamination, reasons for not re-

ducing them, the extra deaths and deformities from public exposure to the full permissible radiation dose, the true 15-to-1 ratio of permissible man-made doses to natural radiation. And what of the genetic pollution just from the growing number of atomic workers exposed to permissible occupational doses ten times higher than the controversial population dose, the difference between an acceptable risk-level from a private point of view and from a public health point of view, and the ethics of leaving a legacy of radioactive garbage for our descendants to keep confined in perpetuity, if they can?

This failure to tell the whole story is not villainy. We simply should not expect to hear more than the rosy side from the Commissioners of an agency charged with a promotional mission. The Atomic Energy Commission is, after all, busy "spreading the gospel of the peaceful atom," according to its assistant manager, Howard Brown.

Fortunately, there exist some alternatives to discuss, and each of them may turn out to be far safer and ethically sounder than nuclear fission. I am referring to new, clean fossil-fuel technology, magnetohydrodynamics generators, plus geothermal, solar, and fusion energy.

It is unfortunate that we have an Atomic Energy Commission instead of an energy commission. A single word has condemned some intelligent public servants to a limited, radioactive vision.

MIKE GRAVEL
United States Senator from Alaska
Washington, Dec. 30, 1970

Read about the Atomic Energy Commission in
February, 1971, ATLANTIC MONTHLY

CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR THE
PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT
71 PINE AVENUE
OSSINING, NEW YORK 10562

Exhibit: Jacob K. Javits (N.Y.)

CONTROL NUMBER **3105**

FILE LOCATION

DATE OF DOCUMENT
~~March~~ **2-6-71**

ACTION COMPLETION DEADLINE

TO
ATC

ACTION PROCESSING DATES
Acknowledged _____
Interim Report _____
Final _____

PREPARE FOR SIGNATURE OF:

Chairman

Director of Regulation

DESCRIPTION **ltr** Original Copy Other

REMARKS

Trans ltr fr Mrs. Milton Kurtz, Citizens League for Education About Nuclear-Energy, Inc., New Rochelle, N. Y., re intention to start power testing of Indian Point 2 without an operating license and requesting a moratorium on construction of all nuclear power plants

Reply for signature of Dir. of Reg.

ltr to Editor N.Y. Times fr Sen. Gravel
Encls: Newspaper article by Congressman Reid 23496

REFERRED TO

DATE

IS NOTIFICATION TO THE JCAE RECOMMENDED? _____

None #/action **2/17/71**

Cys:
Shaper
PAR (50-247)
Docket Files

Copy sent PDR

DO NOT DETACH THIS COPY

DIRECTOR OF REGULATION
COMMUNICATIONS CONTROL

Form HQ-32 (6-70)
USA EC