

League of Saltwater Sportsmen, Inc.

GENERAL OFFICE:

"A NON-PROFIT NON-SALARIED CONSERVATION FEDERATION  
FIGHTING FOR NEW YORK'S COASTAL FISHERMEN"

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December 10, 1970

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ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION



Atomic Energy Commission  
Washington, D. C.

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Gentlemen: Re: Indian Point No. 2, Docket No. 50-247:

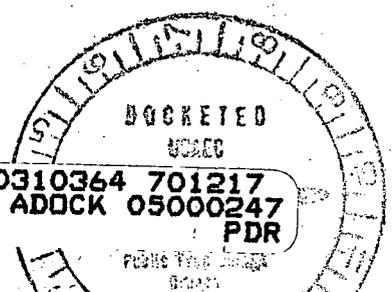
This statement is definitely based on the rising; not abating; number of questions involving the modern electric generating plants, on our rivers, lakes, bays, sounds, or other important waterways that support a vast amount of people seeking recreation and incidental food, infishing; boating; bathing, etc. However; the rapid increase in such plants has created an unusual proliferation, and the companies are now claiming the necessity of building more and more such plants TO MEET THE SUPPOSEDLY EXPECTED DEMAND FOR MORE POWER IN THE FUTURE. AND THIS HAS BECOME SOMEWHAT OF AN OBSESSION ON THE PART OF THE POWER GROUPS. This again; has created many startling; even dangerous, situations that have added considerably to the public's concern over the pollution of our air; our land; our waters, and in one case alone, the damage inflicted on our fish and other marine natural resources, have reached gigantic proportions over the past seven years, particularly at the Con Edison nuclear plant, and you can be assured that Indian Point has turned out to be considerably more than just something to worry about, for it has set the stage FOR ALL THE REST OF SUCH NUCLEAR PLANTS IN OUR BOOK.

As the Director of Conservation Research for many years in the L.I. League of Saltwater Sportsmen, Inc., and also a member of the Hudson River Fishermen's Association; CLEAN; S.O.S., I feel it only proper to bring these thoughts and ideas out into the open at this Hearing at Peekskill N.Y. on December 17, 1970, described as Docket No. 50-247, and I will address them to your group as follows:

First: Why is this Hearing being held? Presumably, to get the viewpoints of both sides, and I will now state that "our side," takes a very definite stand against this particular case based on the deplorable history of such plants already built and in operation. Add that is why the "opposition" is here in such force questioning whether we are destined to die or not, purely whether all such nuclear plants are finally bought under absolute control by such as the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission. IT IS AS SIMPLE AS THAT.....

I feel it a duty to quote at this Hearing first of all, the undying words of that famous scientist: David Lilienthal; the former Chairman of this same present "Atomic Energy Commission; that we see in that new book: "Perils of the Pieceful Atom," these words: " Far and away the most comprehensive and sensible statement ever made about the hazards and limitations of atomic power. Once a bright hope shared by all mankind, myself included, the rash proliferation of atomic power plants has become one of the ugliest clouds overhanging America." Signed, David Lilienthal."

At this I verily believe your case is closed, for I have never heard even one remark



from anyone including the Atomic Energy Commission; " that Mr. Lilienthal did't know what he was talking about. AM I CORRECT OR NOT? And as a followup to the above question, I will ask the Commission still others, and I feel we are entitled to early and proper answers to all.

1 - Seven years ago; June 12, 1963, I asked for and received a permit to lead a four-man group into the Indian Point nuclear plant to investigate the reason for the dumping of many, many truckloads of wakugble Hudson River Striped Bass and other specie, into a huge pit on the premises of the Con Edison Indian Point nuclear plant; photos of which we had made; and our first look under their pier was nothing less than a horror, for there we saw untold thousands of fish, all dead or dying, that we now view as ~~NOTHING LESS THAN A RAW SACRIFICE ON THE ALTAR OF MODERN TECHNOLOGY GONE WILD.....~~ And this same "kill" has reoccurred in lesser or greater degrees, during those past seven years. To cap the climax, that plant was compelled to close last May reportedly because some innerd of the reactor had been floating in it, and such may possibly NOT BEEN SOLVED YET. Could this if not controlled, cauged a disaster or a not? And too; If such as this has happened at Indian Point, why not at other plants, if built?????????????

2 - Will the Atomic Enrgy Commission guarantee that the Shoreham; David's Island; its four proposed units; Indian Point 2 and 3, if built, BE EQUIPPED WITH OPEN OR CLOSED CIRCUIT SYSTEMS, and also, will any, and all adequate devices be installed to stop for all time, any and all fish; large or small; and floating fish eggs peculiar to Striped Bass, from being sucked up into the groups of huge water intake pumps that will supply the "cooling water" to the plant. And will this "used cooling water be discharged again ( or what is left of it) in a manner and place that will not attract ANY FISH BY ITS CHANGE IN TEMPERATURE, AND WILL THERE BE A GUARANTEE THERE WILL BE NO LOSS IN OXYGEN IN THAT DISCHARGEED WATER THAT FISH; VEGETATION; OTHER NATURAL RESOURCES AND HUMAN BEINGS REQUIRE TO LIVE? These take high priority in our book, as this has been a moot question for far too long.

3 - Will all personnel; of whatever rank; be adequately trained to immediately "pull the rods," IN CASE OF PUMP STOPPAGE OR OTHER INCIDENTS AND SHUTTING THE PLANT DOWN TO PREVENT POSSIBLE DISASTER TO THE PLANT; SURROUNDING AREAS, AND THE LOCAL POPULATION?

4 - NUCLEAR HOT WASTES: "As set forth by the Citizens Committee for the preservation of the Environment, we find the nuclear plants create this as byproducts, unburned uranium and plutonium, and the dirtiest phase of the nuclear industry, "and so deadly, A SINGLE GALLON RELEASED INTO THE ENVIRONMENT COULD KILL 2 TO 3 MILLION PEOPLE." This entire question we regard as a deadly situation, and this question I will ask, "WHAT METHOD DOES THE ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION REQUIRE IN PROTECTING THE PUBLIC WHILE SUCH "HOT WASTES" are in transit from either lack of instructions or possible SABOTAGE.?

5 - IS IT TRUE OR NOT, THAT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR A HOME OWNER, OR OTHERS IN THE VICINITY OF NUCLEAR PLANTS, TO BUY OR SECURE PRIVATE INSURANCE TO PROTECT HIS OR HER HOME OR PROPERTY AGAINST NUCLEAR DAMAGE OR DESTRUCTION?

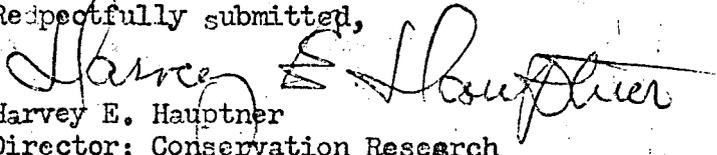
We feel that the public should be made aware of all the foregoing possibilities of ~~dis-~~ from nuclear plants in the news media. We are also told that nuclear plants are costing greatly in excess of their estimated cost, for which the public pays the bills. Also; the public should get news by dependable monitoring ON ALL SUCH NUCLEAR PLANTS.

Gentlemen: The League has kept a continuing surveillance on nuclear plants in many areas for the past seven years (7), and on Indian Point in particular, and our membership fully realizes that power demands will increase in coming years. However; we are convinced that at this stage, the nuclear plant has been anything but a success from a safety point; quite the opposite. In our book, Indian Point has been no less than a sad example for all such nuclear plants at the moment, and our studies include both European and those of the U.S. Let's take the case of that proposed nuclear plant at Montecello, Minn., that is now in the Courts, with eleven (11) other States backing Minnesota's Nuclear Agency. (NEW YORK STATE IS NOT ONE OF THOSE ELEVEN) Imagine that???????????????? And where Minnesota restricted only a "stack release" of 300,000 curies per year, quite oddly, we find the Atomic Energy Commission setting their figure at 5 Million curies per year. AND RIGHT HERE WE ASK: WHY THIS VAST DIFFERENCE? And one good reason we have is that we have noted where "stack releases" were accused of atomic poisoning the milk of cows grazing in areas close to nuclear plants. This includes the charge that babies were found to be infected with this poison. This reported in the Middle West. It is cases such as this that makes one wonder just how the Commission decisions are arrived at; By fact or fiction? And, while regarding decisions, we cannot help but look with dismay on the present New York State Nuclear Authority Law, which we join with many others in demanding that this Law should be annulled and removed from our Law Books without delay.

Our appraisal convinces us that the nuclear plant at this stage, must be viewed with deep suspicion, and it is ~~the~~ our opinion and belief that permits for such as Indian Point No. 2 and 3; Shoreham, Long Island; David's Island, New Rochelle, and others in the making, should very definitely be denied by the Commission, AND WE ASK THAT YOU DO JUST THAT UNTIL EACH AND ALL THOSE DIRE PROBLEMS HAVE BEEN PROPERLY SOLVED, for tomorrow may be too late.

We heartily agree with both David Lilienthal and Dr. Candreva, that we may be facing the greatest catastrophe in history if something goes wrong.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Harvey E. Hauptner  
Director: Conservation Research