

STATEMENT OF CONGRESSMAN UGDEN R. REID FOR THE RECORD OF THE HEARING  
ON PROPOSED OPERATION OF INDIAN POINT NUCLEAR GENERATING UNIT NO. 2

PEEKSKILL, NEW YORK, DECEMBER 17, 1970

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.

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,  $^{90}\text{Sr}$ ,  $^{131}\text{I}$ , and  $^{137}\text{Cs}$ ) 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, John Gofman and Arthur Tamplin have repeatedly testified that, if

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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.

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.

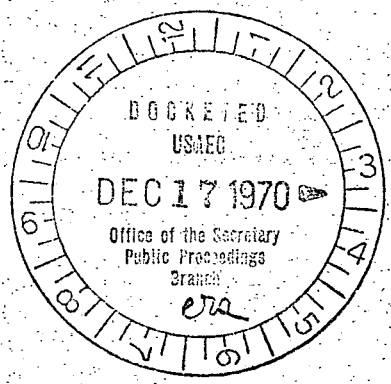
Further, it is not beyond the ingenuity of technology or our country to develop essentially non-polluting sources of power--through the use of essentially non-polluting fossil fuels or hydroelectric power. Technology should not force the government or the public to choose between inadequate power or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



H. Smith

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

12-17-70,

In the Matter of  
CONSOLIDATED EDISON COMPANY OF  
NEW YORK, INC.  
(Indian Point Nuclear Generating  
Unit No. 2)

Docket No. 50-247

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of STATEMENT OF CONGRESSMAN OGDEN R. REID FOR THE RECORD OF THE HEARING ... in the captioned matter have been served on the following by deposit in the United States mail, first class or air mail, this 17th day of December 1970:

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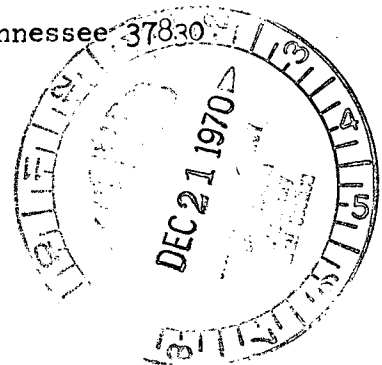
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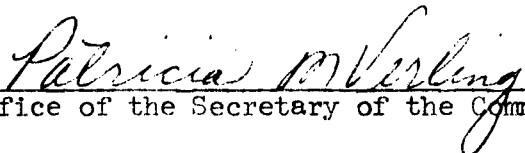
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