

Statement of

Milton Musicus, Chairman

Mayor's Interdepartmental Committee on

Public Utilities for New York City

before the

Atomic Safety and Licensing Board

of the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission

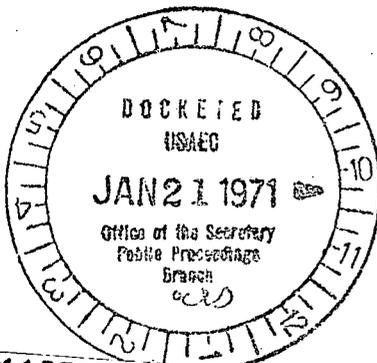
on

Indian Point #2 Plant at Buchanan, N. Y.

Consolidated Edison Co. of N. Y., Inc.

Docket No. 50-247

December 17, 1970



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In the light of the power supply crisis faced by the City of New York, I wish to point out the need for Indian Point #2 plant at Buchanan, N. Y.

The growth of electrical demand of the City of New York is exceeding 350,000-Kw per year. Fundamental in the basic system planning since 1966 in meeting this demand for electrical energy has been the installation and operation of Indian Point #2. In the summer of 1969, because of the lack of available generating capability, it was necessary to reduce system voltage for a total of 8 days. In the summer of 1970 it was necessary to reduce system voltage for a total of 15 days and to shed load on one occasion. In fact, the power system of the City of New York was able to maintain operation last summer only because of purchased power of 1,350-Mw from adjoining utilities!

The summer of 1971 will be far more serious than the preceding summers because of the continuous increasing load demand of the growing city. In addition, existing transmission line capacity has nearly been reached and the contemplated PJM intertie cannot be completed for the summer of 1971. Transmission lines from Indian Point #2 are already installed.

To obtain the needed power through purchase raises a very definite element of uncertainty. Power can be purchased from other utilities only when they have met their own immediate needs, and indications for the coming summer show the load growth for adjoining

utilities and construction delays for new facilities are exceeding previous expectations.

In the past summers, Consolidated Edison began the hot weather period with a reserve capacity exceeding 1,700-Mw. However, as the record shows, our electric power supply on numerous occasions was in dire jeopardy. If Indian Point #2 is not able to function by the summer of 1971, the reserve generating capacity will be only 2,292-Mw, including 636-Mw of new gas-turbine peaking units yet to be installed. If these gas-turbine units are not installed in time, the reserve will be only 1,656-Mw. The barest reserve that could be tolerated is to allow for the loss of the two largest machines + 500-Mw, or 2,015-Mw. It is very significant to note that Consolidated Edison has 38 generating units totaling 2,176-Mw that are obsolete and unreliable machines. In fact, 30 units are more than forty years old - hardly suitable equipment to serve or act as reserve for the City of New York.

Our power plight by the year 1972 will even be more hazardous, because no new generating capacity will be ready for operation until late 1973. Yet, the city's load demand increases year by year, and old generating equipment becomes less and less reliable with passing time.

New York City requires adequate and dependable electric energy for a multitude of essential and life-supporting services. Our subway system, the railroads entering the city, as well as the normal

operation of our airports, require Consolidated Edison power. A vast number of our buildings are of sealed construction, needing electricity for ventilation, elevators and water supply. Needless to say, business and commerce fail to function without power. New York City can hardly remain the financial and communication center of the United States unless adequate and dependable electric power is assured.

If there are any environmental dangers or abuses which would result from operation of the plant, it is our position that they must be eliminated before any license is issued. Only if the plant presents no risk -- in the judgment of competent authorities -- to the health and safety of our citizens or those living nearby, should the plant be allowed to become operational.

We trust that all the inspections and proposed precautionary measures are being examined in the grave detail they rightly deserve, and that adequate safeguards will be instituted by the State and Federal agencies to protect our environment and yet enable us to have the benefits of the electric power we desperately need.