



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Interdepartmental Committee on Public Utilities

ROOM 1800, MUNICIPAL BUILDING, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10007

August 31, 1971

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Hon. James Schlessinger
Chairman
Atomic Energy Commission
Washington, D. C. 20545

Docket No. 50-247

Dear Chairman Schlessinger:

In the light of the current deliberations of the Atomic Energy Commission to formulate rules regulating the environmental impact of nuclear power plants, the Mayor's Interdepartmental Committee on Public Utilities strongly urges immediate consideration be given to the City's vital need for electricity. Unless Consolidated Edison's Indian Point No. 2 Plant starts operation in sufficient time prior to the summer of 1972, the City faces a serious shortage of power.

The need for Indian Point No. 2 both for purposes of meeting electrical demand and for system reliability must not be underestimated. Briefly, the outlook for the coming year is as follows:

Peak demand for the summer of 1972 is forecast at 8,550 megawatts. Although there is possibility of 395 megawatts of purchased power and power from a plant being built jointly with a nearby utility, the anticipated need for power cannot be met without Indian Point No. 2 in operation. Because of forced or scheduled outages of about 1,000 megawatts at all times, seldom has the Company been able to have 7,500 megawatts on line at one time.

Consolidated Edison has 38 generating units totaling 2,176 megawatts that are obsolete and unreliable machines. In fact, 30 units are more than forty years old - hardly suitable equipment to produce electricity or act as reserve for the City of New York. Furthermore, 1,984 megawatts of installed capacity is gas-turbine powered which makes them unsuitable for continuous base load operation.

Under these conditions, there exists a real hazard to the health, safety and welfare of the 7.9 million inhabitants and 3.7 million persons who work in the City of New York.

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A major anticipated source of power for the coming year - 525 megawatts - is the jointly-owned Bowline Point Unit No. 1 which is presently under construction. A recent strike has caused a delay in the manufacture of the plant's turbine, and there is now serious doubt as to whether the plant can be on the line as of its scheduled operation date of 1972.

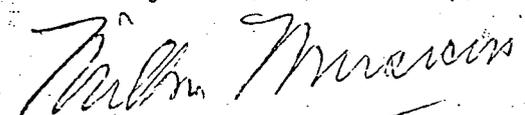
Furthermore, we are advised by Consolidated Edison that its 1,000-megawatt unit, Ravenswood No. 3 ("Big Allis") has continued to experience vibration of the main shaft of the high-pressure machine. The unit has been shut down for maintenance every weekend in August, thus far. This unit will not be considered reliable until it undergoes a complete overhaul. Because the Company is so deficient in generating capacity, it cannot undertake such an extensive overhaul unless Indian Point No. 2 is available for service. We are also informed by the Company that its efforts to buy additional firm power for the coming year have been thus far unsuccessful.

Thus, we believe that without the Indian Point No. 2 unit on the line, the City faces the real hazard of a power crisis in 1972. Whenever voltage reductions and load shedding episodes occur, the health, safety and welfare of the people of the City of New York are placed in jeopardy. Furthermore, an adequate supply of electricity is vital to the City's economic well-being.

Clearly, the Indian Point No. 2 Plant is needed to avert a power crisis in the City in 1972. Just as clearly, the Commission must comply with the mandate of the Court in the Calvert Cliffs' decision that the entire environmental impact of projects not yet granted an operating license be promptly and fully considered.

The Committee, therefore, earnestly requests the Atomic Energy Commission to consider these factors and to act promptly on its forthcoming rules and on the pending license for Indian Point No. 2 Plant.

Sincerely,



Milton Musicus
Chairman