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**ENVIRON**

OCT 8 1972

Docket No. 50-247

Mr. Edward J. Bauser  
 Executive Director  
 Joint Committee on Atomic Energy  
 Congress of the United States

Dear Mr. Bauser:

I am pleased to provide the Committee with two copies of a notice which we are forwarding to the Office of the Federal Register for filing and publication concerning availability of the Final Environmental Statement for Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc.'s Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit 2.

This case may have special interest to the Committee since a considerable amount of public interest has been expressed concerning the environmental impact of the plant on the Indian Point site. A further point of interest is that the staff assessment predicts that the operation of Units 1 and 2 with once-through cooling systems as presently designed, has the potential of permanent damage to the Hudson River aquatic biota. This impact would be felt, particularly, by striped bass.

Based upon the staff assessment, the Commission concludes that the Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit 2 can be licensed for operation subject to the provision that the applicant convert from the once-through cooling system to a closed-cooling water system by January 1, 1978 in order to prevent irreversible damage to aquatic biota. I am also enclosing, for the information of the Committee, two copies of the Final Environmental Statement in which the detailed analysis in support of this conclusion is documented.

Sincerely,

*A. Giambusso*  
 A. Giambusso, Deputy Director  
 for Reactor Projects  
 Directorate of Licensing  
 Chairman (2)  
 bcc: Commissioner Ramey  
 Commissioner Larson  
 Commissioner Doub  
 Commissioner Ray

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- Enclosures:  
 1. Federal Register  
 Notice (2)  
 2. Final Environmental

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