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BLOCH  
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CENTRAL FILES

June 1, 1972  
50-247

*Cy. Grambois*

**ENVIRON**

Mr. Steve Lawrence  
New York Post  
210 South Street  
New York, New York 10002

Dear Steve:

I just read your story in the May 24 edition of the New York Post regarding the draft environmental statement on Indian Point 2 which you reported we "quietly released last month."

Out of curiosity, I checked to see just how "quiet" we had been and found that: (1) we sent the draft statement to 11 Government agencies, four state agencies and two local groups asking for their comments; and (2) we issued a public announcement of the availability of the draft statement to more than 4,000 addressees.

I gather that despite our efforts, the draft statement did not come to your attention until quite recently. I have asked Frank Ingram of our staff to be sure we send you the final statement as soon as it is completed.

Sincerely,

(signed) Joseph J. Fouchard

Joseph J. Fouchard, Assistant  
Director for Public Information  
Office of Information Services

bcc: L. Manning Muntzing ✓  
Director of Regulation

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**Power 1st**  
*5-24-72*  
**Fish 2d**  
**-AEC**

By STEVE LAWRENCE

Con Edison's second nuclear power plant at Indian Point on the Hudson River could kill off most existing fish and permanently change the waterway's ecology, according to a recent Atomic Energy Commission staff report.

But the plant should be completed anyway because New York City needs electric power so badly, the report says.

These comments are contained in a preliminary environmental analysis of the atomic plant, prepared by the AEC staff and quietly released last month.

Indian Point No. 2 is an 873-megawatt facility 30 miles north of the city. Environmentalists oppose it because of the potential ecological damage.

**15 Months of Hearings**

An AEC licensing board has been holding hearings for nearly a year and a half trying to decide whether the plant is safe enough and sufficiently pollution-free to receive an operating license.

The commission staff is preparing a final environmental impact analysis that should be finished late in July.

Its preliminary evaluation seems to support both environmentalists and Con Ed. But its estimate of New York City's need for power was based on the utility's prediction that Indian Point No. 2 could be brought on line for this summer.

The estimates likely will be revised in the final report because Con Ed officials now say the plant probably cannot be ready this summer.

The testing needed before the plant could begin supplying power takes one to four months, these officials say. And the licensing board has given little indication it is willing to approve the start of this testing soon.

Cooling System the Threat  
Indian Point's massive cooling water system poses the biggest threat to the Hudson River, according to the AEC staff. The second plant, along with its smaller (285-megawatt) companion Indian Point No. 1, together suck up 1.1 billion gallons of water a minute to cool the generators and power this, according to the staff is about 14 per cent of the river water passing by.

Fish, eggs and larvae all are sucked into this cooling system before the plant pumps the water back into the river 15 degrees hotter.

"Up to 25 per cent of the average number of eggs and larvae of certain species of fish that annually pass by the plant may be killed" by the cooling process, says the AEC staff report.

*FI*  
*How great*  
*is the*  
*value?*  
*JF*