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 G. Ertter (DR # 5171)

Docket Nos. 50-247  
 and 50-286

JAN 8 1973

Mr. Joseph W. Streng  
 P. O. Box 1231  
 Rocky Point, New York 11778

Dear Mr. Streng:

This is in reply to your letter of December 13, 1972, expressing concern over possible detrimental effects of the Indian Point Unit 2 plant on the striped bass population in the Hudson River. Under separate cover we have sent you a copy of the Final Environmental Statement (FES) about the plant which you requested and which will amplify some of my remarks below.

The point you raise about the installation of the cooling tower not being complete until 1980 is well taken and has been considered in the FES. The staff recommendations pertinent to your questions can be found on page vii under item 7 and include:

- "a. Operation of Indian Point Unit No. 2 with the once-through-cooling system will be permitted until January 1, 1978, and thereafter a closed-cycle cooling system shall be required.
- b. Evaluation of the economic and environmental impacts of an alternative closed-cycle cooling system shall be made by the applicant in order to determine a preferred system for installation. This evaluation shall be submitted to the Atomic Energy Commission for review by July 1, 1973.
- c. After approval by the Atomic Energy Commission, the required closed-cycle cooling system shall be designed, built and placed in operation no later than January 1, 1978."

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This position is a result of the staff's evaluation of all the information available and reflects analyses which balance benefits against costs, including environmental costs. The interpretation of data and the relative value of weight to put on each factor leads the staff to recommend a closed cooling system to be completed by January 1, 1978, (rather than 1980, the date you had given) instead of a closed system at an earlier date or no closed system at all.

Public hearings are being held by the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board; these provide a means for public intervention in the nuclear power plant licensing process. They will be continued, beginning January 10, 1973, in Washington, D. C., in the Main Building of the Federal Trade Commission. The transcripts and related documents of the Indian Point Plant hearings are available for review at the Hendrick Hudson High School, Albany Post Road, Montrose, New York, and also the Atomic Energy Commission's Public Document Room at 1717 H Street, N. W., Washington, D. C. Also, at both locations, copies of other pertinent documents are on file.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By

A. Giambusso

A. Giambusso, Deputy Director  
for Reactor Projects  
Directorate of Licensing

*Handwritten initials*

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