

Regulatory

F.P.C.

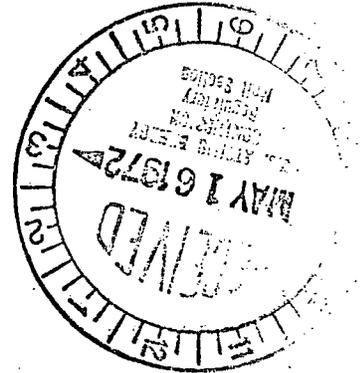
FEDERAL POWER COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20426

50-247

IN REPLY REFER TO:
PWR/ER



May 10, 1972



Mr. Lester Rogers
Director, Division of Radiological
and Environmental Protection
U. S. Atomic Energy Commission
Washington, D. C. 20545

Dear Mr. Rogers:

This is in response to your letter of April 14, 1972, requesting comments on the Draft Detailed Statement on the Environmental Considerations Related to the Proposed Issuance of an Operating License to the Consolidated Edison Company of New York for the Indian Point Unit No. 2 Nuclear Generating Plant, dated April 13, 1972.

The Federal Power Commission's Bureau of Power has previously commented on the need for the Indian Point Unit No. 2 nuclear generating plant in its letter dated December 22, 1971. These comments were included in a Bureau of Power staff report made in response to AEC's letter dated December 7, 1971, requesting comments on the Consolidated Edison Company's application for interim authorization to operate the Indian Point Unit No. 2 at 50 percent of full power.

It is noted that the basic data included in the capacity-demand-reserve margin evaluation made by the FPC Bureau of Power staff in its December 1971 report is that used in Table X-1 of your April 13, 1972 Draft Detailed Statement; therefore, the following comments will update those made in our December 22, 1971 letter.

The FPC Bureau of Power staff completed an analysis of the 1972 summer load-power supply situation for the contiguous United States on April 17, 1972. As of that date, based on available data from the AEC, it appeared that the Indian Point Unit 2 might be able to achieve a significant level of power sometime in the summer, but would not be commercially available on May 31, 1972, our cut-off date for determination of firm summer resources.

The Company reported its expected June 1, 1972 power resources to be 9,293 megawatts (8,823 dependable generating capacity plus 470 megawatts firm purchases) and its estimated summer peak demand to be

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8,400 megawatts. The resulting reserve margin is 893 megawatts, or 10.6 percent. This margin is less than the size of its largest unit, and only 45 percent of the median 1,977 megawatts of forced outages and deratings the Company experienced at the time of the weekly peaks for a fifteen week 1971 summer period. The Company expects to improve its position with the installation of 174 megawatts of barge mounted gas turbines in June and a like amount in July, but it also plans to retire 243 megawatts of old fossil fired capacity in July which, if carried out, would have an offsetting effect. The Company is also continuing its efforts to increase its firm purchases for the period.

For the New York Power Pool, including the Consolidated Edison Company, the situation is only slightly better. As of June 1, 1972, the Pool's resources are projected to be 22,474 megawatts with an estimated peak demand of 19,510 megawatts, resulting in a reserve margin of 2,964 megawatts or 15.2 percent. For the Pool, a median of 3,056 megawatts of forced outages and deratings at time of weekly peak was experienced for the 1971 fifteen week summer period.

In the light of the foregoing and even though the Indian Point No. 2 nuclear unit was not considered as firm capacity in the summer load forecast, the staff of the Bureau of Power concludes that all reasonable efforts should continue to bring this unit into service at the earliest possible date. The need for added capacity to safeguard against the contingencies of forced outages, as well as the desirability of implementing scheduled preventive maintenance programs, is self evident.

Very truly yours,


T. A. Phillips
Chief, Bureau of Power

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