

JAN 28 1974

Docket No. 50-247

Mr. John Nicholas, Jr.
5421 Sylvan Avenue
Riverdale, New York 10471

Dear Mr. Nicholas:

In reference to your letter of December 8, 1973, you expressed your support for the Regulatory staff's recommendation for operation of Consolidated Edison Company's Indian Point Unit No. 2 with an alternate closed-cycle cooling system to be installed by May 1, 1978. After a hearing before an Atomic Safety and Licensing Board, the Licensing Board issued its Initial Decision on September 25, 1973, authorizing a license to be granted for operation initially with open cycle cooling and subsequently with closed-cycle cooling after May 1, 1978. During the period of operation with open cycle cooling, the licensee will be required to minimize the short term impact on the Hudson River fishery, to limit and monitor effluent releases to the environment and conduct ecological studies to assure the environment will be protected as much as possible. Further, our studies have shown that the fishery will not be irreparably harmed for this short term operation of once-through cooling up to May 1, 1978, and that, on balance, having the plant available to meet the serious power shortage for the New York area justifies the possible short term impact on the fishery. The interim time period also allows the licensee time for construction of the towers by May 1, 1978.

Transcripts of the hearings are placed in public document rooms at 1717 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., and the Hendrick Hudson Free Library, Montrose, New York. We encourage the use of these rooms by the concerned citizenry in keeping with our policy of public disclosure of our actions related to licensing of nuclear plants. In these rooms you will find copies of all correspondence relating to the Indian Point application.

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Mr. John Nicholas, Jr.

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We hope this information has been of help to you. If we can be of further service to you, please feel free to call upon us.

Sincerely,

BI

Daniel R. Muller, Assistant Director
for Environmental Projects
Directorate of Licensing

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