

JAN 13 1974

Docket Nos. 50-247
and 50-286

Mr. Robert J. Rance
57 Glengariff Road
Massapequa Park, New York 11762

Dear Mr. Rance:

Thank you for your letter of December 9, 1973, in which you expressed your concern about the impact that the Consolidated Edison Company's Indian Point Unit No. 3 will have on the Hudson River and Long Island Sound striped bass fishery. As you have noted, in the Draft Environmental Statement for Indian Point Unit No. 3 the Regulatory staff has reviewed the potential ecological damage to the striped bass fishery by the once-through cooling system and considers the long term impact unacceptable, which would result in permanent reduction in the fishery of the River and Sound. As such, the staff has recommended that the plant operate with an alternate closed-cycle system by May 1, 1978.

Prior to that time, the applicant will be required to minimize the short term impact on the Hudson River fishery, to limit and monitor effluent releases and conduct ecological studies to assure the environment will be protected as much as possible. Based on detailed studies of the impact of the Indian Point plant on the striped bass fishery, the Regulatory staff has concluded that the fishery will not be irreparably harmed for this short term operation up to May 1, 1978, which is necessary to meet the serious power shortage for the New York area. The details of this study are documented in the Unit No. 2 Final Environmental Statement, the Unit No. 3 Draft Environmental Statement and evidence adduced during the Unit No. 2 Public Hearing.. As a result of the prolonged presentation of evidence in the Indian Point Unit No. 2 hearing, it was also determined by the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board that the short term damage to the Hudson River up to May 1, 1978 would not be irreparable.

It should be of interest to you that the public hearing for licensing of Unit No. 3 is planned to be held on April 25, 1974 at the Springvale Inn in Croton-on-Hudson. Members of the public are invited and encouraged to attend these hearings. Transcripts of the hearings are also placed in public document rooms at 1717 H Street, NW, Washington, D.C., and the Hendrick Hudson Free Library, Montrose, New York. We encourage

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Mr. Robert J. Rance

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the use of these rooms by the concerned citizenry in keeping with our policy of public disclosure of our actions related to licensing of central station nuclear power plants.

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

Sincerely,

Original signed by Daniel R. Muller

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

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