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Docket No. 50-247

ENVIRON, FILE (NEPA)

G. W. Knighton, Chief, Environmental Projects Branch 1, L

STATUS OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR INDIAN POINT UNIT 2

On July 2, 1973, the parties to the Indian Point Unit 2 hearing presented oral arguments before the ASLB reiterating the position each has taken throughout the hearing. At the hearing, the proposed Environmental Technical Specifications (ETS) prepared by the Regulatory staff were submitted to the ASLB and the other parties. At the hearing, Con Ed made the big issue that the staff agreed with Con Ed that environmental studies on the river had to be carried out before cooling towers should be installed since the ETS used much of what Con Ed had proposed in its ETS of April 30, 1973. On the contrary, the staff's position has not changed at all. Of major concern to the staff, as well as EPA, Department of Interior, Department of Commerce, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and the intervenors is the operation of the plant during the interim period prior to installation of the towers. The staff has made it abundantly clear in rebuttal testimony that it is expected that the ecological studies will not supply any additional information above what we know today that will change the significance of the impact of once-through cooling over the plant life time. However, the staff will keep a close eye on what is happening to the river through the detailed ecological studies to observe any short-term effects. The plan of action which Con Ed is to supply the AEC prior to obtaining an OL will also provide interim measures to mitigate change until the cooling towers are built.

It should be clearly pointed out to the ASLB and the intervenors that the 5-year Texas Instrument ecological study for \$10 million was started on April 1, 1972; two weeks prior to issuance of the Indian Point Unit 2 DES. The entire program was detailed by Con Ed prior to any part the AEC played in regard to the position taken in the FES, requiring an alternate cooling system. Con Ed is now using this Texas Instrument study as the mechanism upon which to delay in making a decision on the alternate cooling system. However, the Texas Instrument study was never designed in the first place to study the entrainment problem; the major determining issue in this whole case. The entrainment problem was to be looked at by only J. Laner, NYU, and

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only by observing the degree of mortality of eggs and larvae on taking samples before and after passage through the condensers. This study is to be completed by the end of 1973.

Under the Indian Point ecological study, at no time did Con Ed propose to collect samples of eggs and larvae in the river itself. In the staff's ETS, Con Ed will be required to do this in Section V - Entrainment.

The ETS, as proposed by the staff, are designed to meet the ETS guide of May 15-18, 1973, and to be used for inspection purposes as required by Regulatory Operations. The only major section of the May 18, 1973, guide not incorporated into Appendix B is the Section 2.4 - Radioactive Discharges, corresponding to Section 3.9 - Radioactive Effluent Limits in Appendix A. M. McCoy, K. Kniel and I agreed that this section would remain in Appendix A, but that the Radiological Environmental Monitoring, Section 4.11 of Appendix A, would be transferred to Appendix B. The old Section 4.11 of Appendix A now appears as Section 4.2.1.a - Radiological Environmental Monitoring Survey in Appendix B.

On July 16, 1973, Con Ed will submit its comments on the staff's ETS. The intervenors apparently have already presented its comments.

Con Ed stated at the hearing, it expected to complete all the tests required under the 50% testing license by the last week in July.

The ASLB initial decision will be issued about August 1, 1973.

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Mary Jane Oestmann, Project Manager
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