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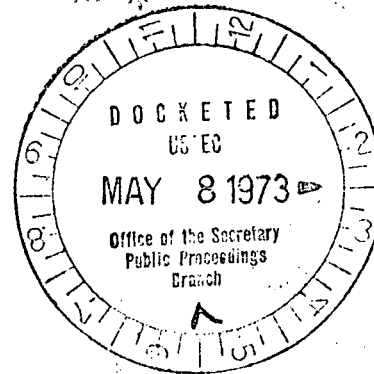
DOCKET NUMBER
PROC. & UTIL. FAC. 50-247

April 30, 1973

Mr. David M Seymour
Hudson River Fishermen's Association
Box 303
Cold Spring, New York 10516

-and-

Mr. Frederick E Hodgson
Save Our Strippers, Inc.
P.O. Box 116
Massapequa Park, N Y 11762



Dear Mr. Seymour and Mr. Hodgson

Mr. Charles F Luce has asked me to respond to your joint letter dated March 28, 1973 and to the letter of the Hudson River Fishermen's Association dated March 20, 1973, both of which were received on April 2, 1973.

Under the applicable laws, and as a matter of social responsibility, Con Edison is concerned with protecting against damage from the operation of our plants the fish and other aquatic biota in the Hudson River. The National Environmental Policy Act requires that environmental amenities and values "be given appropriate consideration in decision making along with economic and technical considerations...". As stated in the Calvert Cliffs case, "Congress did not establish environmental protection as an exclusive goal; rather, it desired a reordering of priorities, so that environmental costs and benefits will assume their proper place along with other considerations". The degree of environmental injury must be weighed against the economic, environmental and social costs of the alternatives in order to reach a decision which maximizes the public interest.

We disagree that it has been established on the basis of scientific evidence that a closed-cycle cooling system is required at Indian Point Units 2 and 3 to protect the fish and other aquatic biota dependent upon the Hudson. On the contrary, the most competent biologists and engineers whom Con Edison has been able to find, including eminent consultants from outside the company's staff, and representatives of federal and state agencies constituting the Hudson River Policy Committee, have advised Con Edison's management

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that there is presently inadequate data to justify installation of such a system from a biological standpoint. Con Edison has introduced in the AEC proceeding substantial evidence to the effect that completion of the Hudson River research program is necessary to determine the degree of adverse impact, if any, that will result from plant operations and that operation pending completion of this research program will not result in any irreversible adverse impact.

The addition of cooling towers to the Indian Point plants would be very costly (\$20,000,000 a year for 25 years for Unit 2 alone). The tower for Unit 2 would be approximately 564 feet high and 452 feet wide, constituting a major aesthetic intrusion with as yet unquantified adverse effects of emissions and blowdown. We believe these towers should be imposed on the community and their cost upon our customers, only after a careful and realistic appraisal of their ecological effects and only after a clear showing based on scientific data that the public benefits exceed the public costs.

We wish to point out that the Hudson River Fishermen's Association some years ago participated in the Cornwall case in which it was suggested that nuclear plants were among the alternatives to the pumped storage plant, which we have not yet been able to build because of objectors, including the Hudson River Fishermen's Association. There was no mention of the requirement of cooling towers in connection with the proposed nuclear plant alternative.

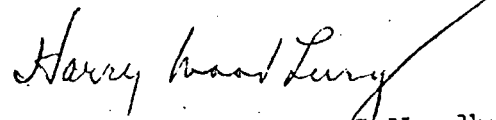
Furthermore, I can find nothing in the hearing record that either the Hudson River Fishermen's Association or Save Our Stripers, Inc. even attempted to appear by way of formal intervention or limited appearance in the construction permit proceedings between 1965 and 1969 for either Unit 2 or 3. Construction of these plants was licensed to proceed with a once through cooling system without any suggestion from fishing interests that cooling towers would be an essential requirement for plant operation.

It was at our initiative and at our considerable expense that the seven year aquatic impact studies and alternate means to minimize adverse effects and mitigate damage were started and are being carried out. These studies include detailed biologic and engineering designs of some of the alternatives to reduce to a minimum the time necessary to implement one or more of the alternatives should such be found to be in the public interest.

April 30, 1973

We believe therefore that we have on a timely basis taken every prudent action in the interest of the public, our customers and our stockholders to best assure our ability to meet the energy demands of our customers with reasonable balance of environmental, economic and social costs.

Sincerely yours,



Harry C Woodbury

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cc: ✓ U.S. Atomic Energy Commission
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Secretary of the Commission
AEC Regulatory Staff
AEC Public Proceedings Staff
Washington, D. C.

N.Y.S. Public Service Commission
Commissioners
Secretary of the Commission
Albany, New York

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