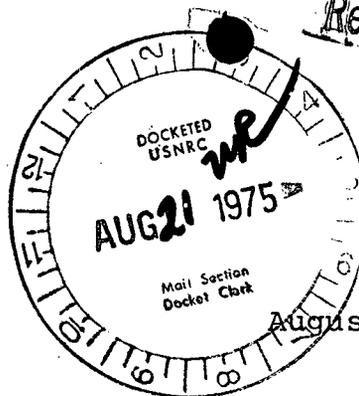


Carl L. Newman
Vice President

Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc.
4 Irving Place, New York, N. Y. 10003
Telephone (212) 460-5133



Regulatory Docket File

August 18, 1975

Mr. George W. Knighton
Chief, Environmental Projects Branch #1
Directorate of Licensing
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

RE: Indian Point 2 - Docket No. 50-247

Dear Mr. Knighton,

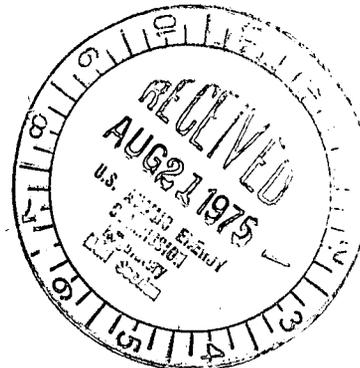
This is in response to your letter to me, dated August 5, 1975, received August 8, 1975.

There appears to have been a misunderstanding of our activities following the meeting at the Indian Point site on June 12. By your letter dated June 5, 1975 to our Mr. W. J. Cahill, Jr., which we received on June 9, 1975, you requested a meeting at the Indian Point site on June 12 and 13, 1975 for members of the NRC staff (the Staff). The three purposes of the meeting, as stated in the letter, were:

- 1) To visit the Indian Point site and environs.
- 2) To obtain answers to ten (10) pages of Staff questions submitted with your letter dated June 5.
- 3) To discuss the environmental noise survey, drift and meteorology studies with four (4) of our consultants.

On June 10, 1975, I discussed the agenda by telephone with Dr. M. J. Oestmann of the Staff, and it was agreed, in view of the very short notice, that the discussions with Con Edison's consultants, if required, would be set up later. The principal emphasis during the site visit was to be on the site itself, and environs, and, to the extent possible, on discussing the ten (10) pages of Staff questions which, in your June 5, 1975 letter, you wrote "can serve as an agenda for the site visit."

It was my understanding from discussion with Mr. John D. O'Toole, Assistant Vice President, Engineering, who represented me at the June 12 meeting, that substantial progress was made in answering the questions during the meeting; however, as he noted



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Mr. George W. Knighton

August 18, 1975

to Dr. Oestmann during the meeting, many of the questions would require weeks, and in some cases, months for adequate answers by Con Edison. We suggested that the scheduled second day's meeting (June 13) be at Con Edison's headquarters at 4 Irving Place, where the resources of our Engineering and Planning Departments would be made available to make further progress in answering Staff questions. This invitation was declined by your representatives who felt that the one-day meeting had accomplished their objectives.

The next step, as we understand it, was that the Staff was to revise and resubmit the list of questions to Con Edison, taking into consideration the progress made, and the clarifications discussed during the June 12 meeting. Con Edison representatives agreed, in view of the tight Staff schedule resulting from the requirements of the Unit 2 operating license, to proceed immediately in compiling certain technical information. We agreed to contact cooling tower vendors to obtain additional information on alternate tower types, and to investigate cost/benefit methodology as it applies to aesthetics. We did not agree to proceed on the photographic study pending clarification of requirements from the Staff; nor did we agree to prepare answers to the earlier agenda questions, which were subsequently revised by the Staff. Such effort would have been counterproductive.

In a telephone discussion on July 11, 1975 Mr. O'Toole confirmed to you that we had proceeded with this work, as agreed, but were awaiting the Staff letter with the revised questions before proceeding with preparation of written answers. Although we were led to believe that the Staff letter would be received within two weeks of the June 12 meeting, it was not, in fact, sent until July 10, 1975, and not received until July 14, 1975.

In view of the fact that Con Edison representatives indicated to your Staff on June 12, 1975, that some of the questions would require many weeks for adequate response, we were understandably surprised at your required response date of July 28, 1975, for the questions received in our office July 14, 1975. Nonetheless, we proceeded at an accelerated pace to provide as many responses as possible on the best schedule possible. Our letter dated July 28, 1975, and our subsequent submittal dated August 6, 1975 are both consistent with that objective.

As noted in the attachment to our August 6, 1975 letter, some of the information requested by the Staff will not be available until October 1975, and by its nature, could not have been developed by July 28, 1975, as you had requested. In particular, questions III.25 and III.26 would require a very large photographic study of the Indian Point area, even with the

Mr. George W. Knighton

August 18, 1975

reduced scope of work suggested by the Staff (see our response to question III.25). Your phone conversation with Mr. John Szeligowski of our Engineering Department on August 13, 1975 does provide needed clarification of the situation. In that conversation you indicated that Con Edison can expect a letter from the Staff stating that we will not be required to provide the requested photographic survey and evaluation (Questions III.25 and III.26), because the Staff will obtain such information by performing its own survey. This being the case, our responses to your questions received on July 14, 1975 will be completed by the end of September, 1975.

We regret any misunderstanding that may have arisen in this matter. Be assured of our fullest cooperation in providing the requested information on the most expeditious schedule.

Very truly yours,

Carl L. Newman

mb.ap

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