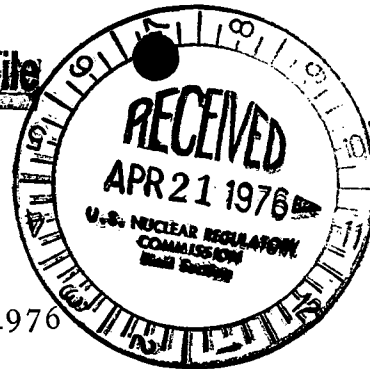


Palisades Interstate
Park Commission
Administration Building
Bear Mountain, NY 1091
914 786-2701

Nash Castro
General Manager



Regulatory Docket File



April 15, 1976

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

50-247

Att: Director, Division of
Site Safety and Environmental
Analysis

Gentlemen:

The staff of the Palisades Interstate Park Commission has completed its review of the Draft Environmental Statement for the Selection of the Preferred Closed Cycle Cooling System at Indian Point Unit No. 2 and offers the following comments:

1. Parklands administered by the Palisades Interstate Park Commission are visited by over 7,000,000 visitors each year, a substantial number of whom visit portions within direct visual contact of the proposed cooling tower site. These lands include areas within Bear Mountain State Park, Harriman State Park and Stony Point Historic Site. It is felt that construction of a closed cycle cooling system as proposed (Natural Draft Cooling Tower) represents a most serious visual intrusion. The Commission feels that this cooling system is unacceptable because of the magnitude of the cooling tower and the resultant plume.
2. A Fan-Assisted Natural Draft Cooling Tower is unacceptable for the same reasons as above.
3. Circular Mechanical Draft Cooling Towers, while esthetically more acceptable, present potential saline drift hazards. The report states that White Ash, Flowering Dogwood and Eastern Hemlock, three common Park trees, are highly sensitive to this type of drift. Figure 5-21, showing areas of potential botanical injury, includes portions of all three parks mentioned under comment No. 1. Subsequently, some damage to Park trees could result. For this reason, Circular Mechanical Draft Cooling Towers are unacceptable.

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April 15, 1976

4. The Commission recommends that further study be given toward finding an alternate solution that will satisfy not only the functional requirements but the esthetic and botanical as well.

Sincerely,

Nam Gasto

General Manager

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