



Regulatory Docket File

PLANNING COMMISSION
CITY OF PEEKSKILL
CITY HALL
PEEKSKILL, N. Y. 10566
April 14, 1976



U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Washington, D.C. 20555

Attention: Director, Division of Site Safety and Environmental Analysis

Re: Draft Environmental Statement for Selection of the Preferred
Closed Cycle Cooling System at Indian Point Unit No. 2
Docket No. 50-247



Gentlemen:

At its meeting on April 1, 1976 the Planning Commission of the City of Peekskill adopted a resolution opposing the construction at Indian Point of any of the closed cycle cooling systems necessitating the construction and use of cooling towers because of the aesthetic and economic impact of these towers on the City of Peekskill and its neighboring communities.

Although the Commission members do not possess the expertise necessary to independently evaluate all the technical information presented in the Draft Environmental Statement, as involved and concerned citizens all are able to understand the visual impact of the towers illustrated in the rendered photographs on pages 6-41, 42 and 43 of the report. The thought of the preferred natural draft type monstrous structures, each wider than the length of a football field, towering more than fifty-five stories above the ground and spewing forth a saline cloud that will both eclipse the sun and shower salt droplets on the surrounding communities, is inconceivable and unacceptable to the Commission.

The Draft Environmental Statement notes that the City of Peekskill is presently formulating proposals to revitalize its waterfront property along Peekskill Bay. Modest recreational improvements in this area are already underway. Consideration is being given to the provision of additional recreational facilities as well as possible residential and commercial development in the future plans for the proposed waterfront area. However, the above-noted photographs show that these cloud belching monsters will impose an industrial atmosphere on the

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waterfront area and the City itself. This will make the City of Peekskill, in general, and its waterfront area, in particular, less attractive to potential developers and impose an economic hardship and an unsightly visual impact on the City.

In the Draft Environmental Statement the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation's staff has concluded that the effects of saline drift on local vegetation are unlikely to have major consequences for any of the cooling towers considered and that the risk to vegetation from natural draft type towers on or offsite is sufficiently low to be considered negligible. The Commission has really no way to verify these conclusions but anyone who has ever lived near the seashore is aware that a marine atmosphere accelerates corrosion of automobiles and other metal products, hastens weathering of wood and painted surfaces and even causes concrete buildings and pavements to deteriorate. The Commission hopes that the data used by your staff in arriving at its conclusions regarding saline drift were extensive and accurate enough to insure that the City of Peekskill will not be subjected to any adverse effects.

The power brown-outs that have occurred over the past few years have provided ample illustrations of the metropolitan area's need for the electricity generated at Indian Point and the Commission is not suggesting that the safe generation of power be in any way disrupted or discontinued. The Commission suggests that the power plants be permitted to continue to operate with the existing once-through cooling system. Surely there must be a screening perimeter long enough and a screen with a mesh suitable to reduce the impingement and entrapment of fish and fish eggs to acceptable levels.

The Planning Commission requests of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation that the City of Peekskill and its inhabitants be given consideration commensurate with that being afforded to the inhabitants of the Hudson River.

Very truly yours,


Edwin I. Ziegler, Chairman