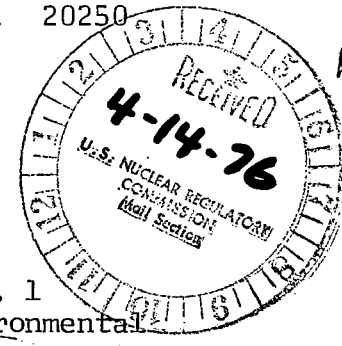
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
Washington, D. C. 20250



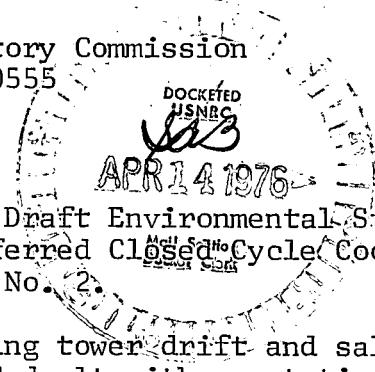
APR 12 1976

8420

Regulatory Docket File

Mr. George W. Knighton, Chief
Environmental Projects Branch No. 1
Division of Site Safety and Environmental Analysis
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

50-247



Dear Mr. Knighton:

We have reviewed the Draft Environmental Statement for Selection of the Preferred Closed Cycle Cooling System at Indian Point Unit No. 2.

The analysis of cooling tower drift and salt deposition was comprehensive and dealt with vegetation effects thoroughly. However, it was not clear what steps Consolidated Edision would take if botanical injury occurred from salt accumulation. Gradual replacement of intolerant plants injured by salt by tolerant plants would reduce total damage in the long term.

From the standpoint of minimizing damage to trees, the natural draft cooling tower appears to be preferable to mechanical draft cooking towers, because effluent is chiefly in the form of low-salt water vapor; the models of salt deposition show lower ground concentration in the vicinity of the plant.

The statement described extensive excavation, road building, and other construction. Mitigation of erosion by revegetation of the soil surfaces exposed by these activities should also be described in the final statement.

We appreciate the opportunity to review and comment on this environmental statement.

Sincerely,

R. MAX PETERSON
Deputy Chief

3701