

Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc.

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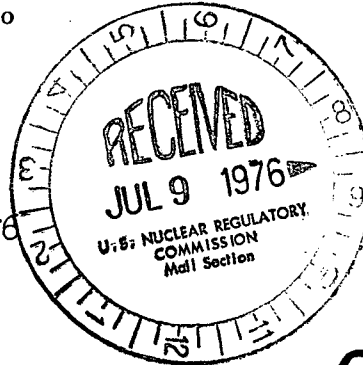
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July 6, 1976

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

50-247

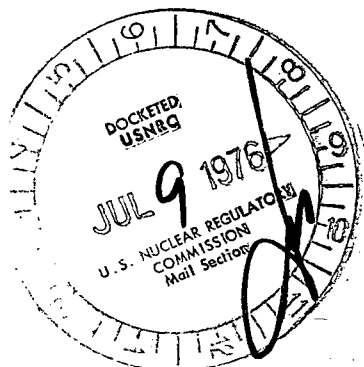
Re: Designation of Preferred Alternative Closed Cycle
Cooling System for Indian Point Unit #2

Dear Mr. Rusche:

I am writing concerning the NRC's schedule for completion of its environmental review of the proposed license amendment to Facility Operating License No. DPR-26 for Indian Point Unit #2, which amendment designates a closed cycle natural draft wet cooling tower system as the preferred alternative closed cycle cooling system for Indian Point Unit #2.

Our concern derives from the fact that lengthy delays have preceded the issuance by the Staff of first, a draft environmental statement and now the final environmental statement on the proposed action. The consequences of these delays are extremely serious since each delay threatens the present license requirement calling for a cessation of once-through cooling at the Indian Point Unit #2 by May 1, 1979.

The licensee submitted its report on "Economic and Environmental Impacts of Closed Cycle Cooling Systems for Indian Point Unit #2" to the NRC in December 1974. After more than 19 months, the Staff has still not issued a FES with respect to the proposed license amendment; despite the fact that the license contemplates completion of this review by December, 1975.



Regulatory Docket File

6881

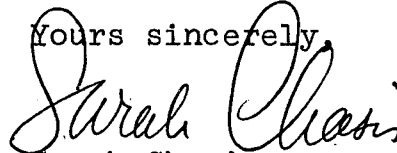
Mr. Rusche

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In discussions with the Staff we have just learned that issuance of the FES has again been delayed to the end of July. We consider these repeated delays an abrogation of the NRC's substantive responsibilities under NEPA, and of its specific responsibilities under the license terms. Every additional month of delay raises the spectre of an additional month of operation with a once-through cooling system, with its accompanying adverse impact upon the Hudson River fishery. Every effort should be made to expedite completion and publication of the Final Environmental Statement so that Staff review may be completed and a designation of the preferred alternative closed cycle system made.

Yours sincerely,


Sarah Chasis

SC:ps

cc: Edward J. Sack, Esq.
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of New York, Inc.

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