



SENATOR  
BERNARD G. GORDON  
37TH DISTRICT  
CHAIRMAN  
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

THE SENATE  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY 12224

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING  
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STATEMENT  
BY SENATOR BERNARD G. GORDON  
APRIL 19, 1976

At a hearing held by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission last year concerning Indian Point Plant #3 I raised objections to the Commission's plan to require cooling towers at Indian Point. At that time I detailed, and documented, the adverse economic, environmental and aesthetic impact that would result if such towers were built. The draft Environmental Impact Statement prepared by the N. R. C. staff and the Con Edison study showing natural draft towers to be the preferred type of cooling system contained information clearly establishing that the dangers posed by these towers are in fact very real.

Since that time further research has only served to heighten my dismay at the apparent lack of concern for human needs evidenced by the N. R. C. The N. R. C. Environmental Impact Statement in no way answers any of the questions raised in my statement of April, 1975. Rather, important questions are again left unanswered, assumptions are made on the basis of non-existent data, and the health and quality of life of the area's residents given little weight when viewed against the sole focus of protecting the fishlife of the Hudson.

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For your benefit, I enclose a copy of my earlier statement, footnoting to the page the information, or lack thereof, which concerns me so greatly. But in order to lend greater substance to the feelings of the area's residents, I have sought, and enclose expert testimony, to support my apprehension as to these towers. These experts, I might add, are not from the threatened area and were unbiased as to what conclusions they would reach after dispassionate review. Their conclusions are frightening.

The "Comment", prepared for me by the Northeastern Legislative Energy Staff, finds the N. R. C. Environmental Statement "sadly deficient". They confirm my fears that the cooling needs of other plants (such as Bowline, less than 5 miles away) are ignored, although the cumulative environmental impact from these plants could be devastating. In addition, these scientists outline six potential beneficial uses for waste heat and sadly conclude that the N. R. C.'s brief dismissal of this important issue "is reflective of the process by which the United States has been locked into the most energy wasteful industrial infrastructure in the world". The Comment points out that "many other factors are not covered by the N. R. C. report and that the prospect of a better pure cooling solution being developed is also ignored." Further information on these issues should unquestionably be obtained before a decision to mandate these



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towers is made.

In addition, a study prepared for me by the Atmospheric Sciences Research Center of the State University of New York concludes "that once-through cooling will have less detrimental physical impact and less displeasing aesthetic impact than the cooling towers". It also points out, and details, the fact that at the time of the N. R. C. study "not enough data were available to analyze all the environmental impacts of the salt drift from the cooling towers."

Dr. Ulrich Czapski, Associate Professor of Atmospheric Science at the State University concludes that, "Not only is the use of cooling towers a great economic penalty, but its atmospheric consequences are not sufficiently well known to guarantee a diminished total environmental impact." In outlining the very real dangers to the plant life of the area raised by this salt drift the Atmospheric Sciences report notes "The synergistic effects of salt drifts and drought have not been considered in the Environmental Impact Statement". It concludes that the Statement "contains too little data" to evaluate the potential adverse impact of salt deposits on the area's vegetation.

The N. R. C. studies thus far have contained too little data, have made too many assumptions, and have shown too little concern for the threatened plight



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of thousands of people in a four county area. We bring our fears to your attention and urge that these concerns are justified by the facts. There is a clear obligation on your part to defer the requirement of cooling towers at Indian Point until all environmental questions have been completely and satisfactorily answered. To do less than this would be to condemn the residents of the Hudson Valley to live with the frightening consequences of these monstrous towers before their full impact has been adequately studied.

*Bernard G. Gordon*  
-SEP

BERNARD G. GORDON

