



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION II
26 FEDERAL PLAZA
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10007

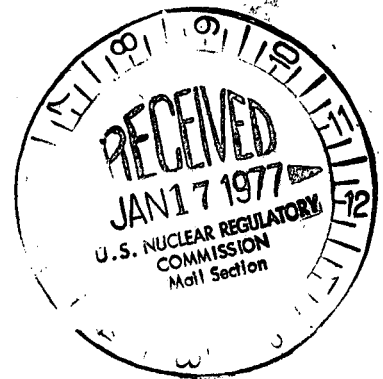
Regulatory

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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



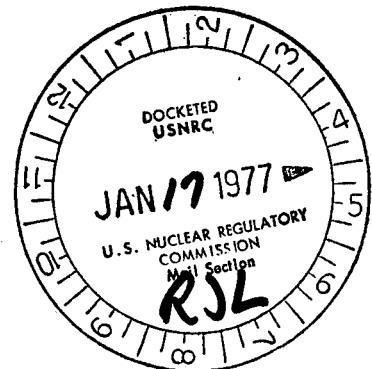
Dear Mr. Knighton:

The Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed the final environmental impact statement (EIS) issued in conjunction with the proposed Facility License Amendment for Extension of Operation with Once-Through Cooling for Indian Point Unit No. 2.

We would like to commend the NRC staff for their responsiveness to our comments on the draft EIS, particularly their revision of the recommendations made in the draft EIS. We recognize that the proposed one-year extension would allow the operation of Unit 2 with once-through cooling beyond the May 1, 1979 date specified in the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for Indian Point Units 1 and 2. However, the EPA has already stayed that date pending resolution of issues raised by Con Edison in its request for an adjudicatory hearing with respect to the closed-cycle cooling requirement and related compliance schedule. Since the proposed extension is consistent with the terms of the operating license and since the issue of the most practicable compliance date for NPDES purposes remains unresolved, there is no material inconsistency between the proposed action and the NPDES permit.

Sincerely yours,

Gerald M. Hansler
Gerald M. Hansler, P.E.
Regional Administrator



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