



# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240



ER 76/177

**50-247**

SEP 24 1976

Dear Mr. Knighton:

Thank you for your letter of August 9, 1976 transmitting copies of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's final environmental statement related to the selection of the preferred closed-cycle cooling system at Indian Point Unit 2, Westchester County, New York. We have reviewed the final statement and reiterate below several remaining issues of concern to us.

We are concerned that the differences in evaluation made by the NRC staff and the applicant will only prolong the ultimate decision on the acceptability of closed-cycle cooling systems at Indian Point Unit No. 2.

We believe that the once-through cooling systems presently used at Indian Point have the potential for causing long-term adverse impacts on the fisheries of the Hudson River which have already been determined to be unacceptable. We have stated these concerns previously in our comments on the draft statement (Attachment 1) and in our comments on the draft statement for extension of operation with once-through cooling for Indian Point Unit No. 2. (Attachment 2).

Lengthy licensing delays will adversely affect the fisheries of the Hudson River and Middle Atlantic coastal states. Positive steps should be taken as quickly as possible to reach an agreement on the use of closed-cycle cooling systems at Indian Point.

Sincerely yours,

Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Interior

Mr. George Knighton, Chief  
Environmental Projects Branch I  
Division of Site Safety and  
Environmental Analysis  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D. C. 20555

Attachments 1&2.



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