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57-247

ENVIRON, FILE (NEPA)

Note to: John F. O'Leary, Director of Licensing

BASIS FOR THE JANUARY 1, 1978 DEADLINE FOR INITIATION OF CLOSED SYSTEM OPERATION OF INDIAN POINT UNIT NO. 2

Recently you asked for a statement on the basis of the January 1, 1978 date for cessation of once-through cooling operation of Indian Point Unit No. 2. In checking with the staff I find that this date was established as a reasonable, but outside limit, for procuring, constructing, and interconnecting a cooling tower system with the plant.

The staff, based on cooling tower manufacturer estimates and confirmation through actual procurement and construction time at various plants, has found a range of 2 years, 8 months to 4 years, 9 months required to initiate operation under new plant design conditions. Since Indian Point Unit No. 2 has a site which has rough topography which will require considerable blasting for installation of towers, the staff judged that January 1, 1978, with an accelerated schedule, would not be an unreasonable date to meet (approximately 4 1/2 years).

Operation with once-through cooling up to January 1, 1978, was judged by the staff biologist to have an environmental impact which would be recoverable. He would not, however, recommend extending beyond January 1, 1978. His preference would be to have the closed-cycle cooling system installed and in operation as soon as practicable, but not later than January 1, 1978.

It is of interest to note that the FWPCA Act of 1972 which was approved after the staff evaluation had been completed, contains a requirement that the best practicable control technology would have to be applied no later than July 1, 1977. It is very likely that the ASLB will apply this legal limit rather than the January 1, 1978 date proposed by the staff. The recent meeting with the EPA Region II office in New York determined that EPA does not plan to issue a permit to Con Ed that would allow once-through cooling to exceed July 1, 1977 and they are strongly thinking of requiring the towers to be in operation earlier than that period.

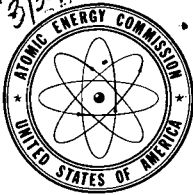
Original by
 George W. Knighton

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Daniel R. Muller, Assistant Director
 for Environmental Projects
 Directorate of Licensing

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DATE		3/20/73	3/20/73		

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UNITED STATES
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20545

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for *Seorgell Knighton*
Daniel R. Muller, Assistant Director
for Environmental Projects
Directorate of Licensing

cc: A. Giambusso