

MEMO



UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Office of Public Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20555

No. 80-28
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
(Mailed - February 8, 1980)

50-286

NRC STAFF ISSUES FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT ON COOLING SYSTEM FOR INDIAN POINT 3 PLANT IN NEW YORK

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has issued a Final Environmental Statement associated with selection of a preferred closed cycle cooling system for the Power Authority of the State of New York's Indian Point 3 nuclear power plant at Buchanan, New York.

Unit 3 is now licensed to operate with a once-through cooling system but the license calls for a closed cycle cooling system to be installed by September 1982. Under a proposed amendment to its license, PASNY is seeking a determination that a closed cycle natural draft, wet cooling tower system is the preferred alternative.

Based on its evaluation of the environmental information filed by the company and of information developed in an independent analysis of alternative systems, the staff found that the acceptable alternative systems for Unit 3 are three types of wet cooling towers, including the natural draft system proposed by the licensee. Other systems considered were found to be unacceptable environmentally or economically.

Major factors entering into selection of tower types are noise, draft and aesthetics. The staff concluded that while there are minor differences in the types found acceptable none warrant a change in the licensee's selection of the natural draft system.

The Final Environmental Statement will be part of the staff evidence at a public hearing to be held before a decision is made on the preferred system.

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Copies of the statement will be available for public inspection at the Hendrick Hudson Free Library, 31 Albany Post Road, Montrose, New York, and at the NRC Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. Copies may be purchased at current rates from the GPO Sales Program, Division of Technical Information and Document Control, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555 and from the National Technical Information Service, Springfield, Virginia 22161. For identification purposes, the report is designated NUREG-0574.

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