

DEC 21 1973

Mr. Don McLean
Old Manitou Road
Garrison, New York 10524

Dear Mr. McLean:

Thank you for your letter of November 30, 1973, in which you expressed your concern about the activation of Consolidated Edison's Indian Point Unit No. 3 resulting in possible radioactivity to plants and humans, the killing of large numbers of fish (especially striped bass), and the marring of the landscape. In response to your concerns, a copy of the Draft Environmental Statement which discusses these subjects was sent to you under separate cover. This statement describes in greater detail some of my remarks made below.

As discussed in Section V. D. (pp. 66-68) and V. E. of this statement, a very small amount of radioactivity produced during operation of Indian Point Unit No. 3 may be released in liquids to the Hudson River or released into the atmosphere as gases under controlled conditions after appropriate treatment, sampling, and monitoring. These releases of radioactivity to unrestricted areas will be in accordance with the Commission's regulations, as set forth in 10 CFR Part 20 and 10 CFR Part 50.

As specified in Appendix B, Table II, in 10 CFR Part 20, the allowable concentrations of radionuclides in air and water, were chosen to conform to the recommendations of the Federal Radiation Council, the National Commission on Radiological Protection, and the International Commission on Radiation Protection. These scientific bodies agree that no detectable effects on man are expected to result from exposure to radionuclides at the specified concentrations of 10 CFR Part 20. In addition, the estimated doses are less than the guides of proposed Appendix I of 10 CFR Part 50 which requires releases to be as low as practicable. The radiation doses from the radioactive releases from Indian Point Unit No. 3, as shown in Tables V-14, 15, 16 and Table V-5 of the Draft Statement, will be but a very small fraction of that dose received from background radiation. During operation, the applicant will be conducting a radiological

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environmental surveillance program to assure that such releases and doses will be kept as low as practicable and meet the Commission's regulations.

In reference to your concern about the impacts on the fishery of the Hudson River, the Atomic Energy Commission is also concerned about the loss of striped bass in the Hudson River if the plant were to operate in the manner proposed by Consolidated Edison Company. As a consequence, we have recommended to the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board that the utility be required to build and operate with an alternate method of cooling the plant which would result in reduced mortality to aquatic life in the Hudson River. Upon review and approval of this closed-cycle cooling system, it would be constructed and put into operation no later than May 1, 1978. Furthermore, the applicant will develop a plan of action by July 1, 1974, to minimize detrimental effects on aquatic life, such as fish kills on the intake screens.

It should be of interest to you that the public hearing for licensing of this plant is planned to be held in April 25, 1974, at the Springvale Inn in Croton-on-Hudson. Members of the public are invited and encouraged to attend these hearings. Transcripts of the hearings are also placed in public document rooms at 1717 H Street, NW., Washington, D.C., and Hendrick Hudson Free Library, Montrose, New York. We encourage the use of these rooms by the concerned citizenry, in keeping with our policy of public disclosure of our actions related to licensing of central station nuclear power plants.

We hope this information has been of help to you. If we can be of further service to you, please feel free to call upon us.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Daniel R. Muller

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

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