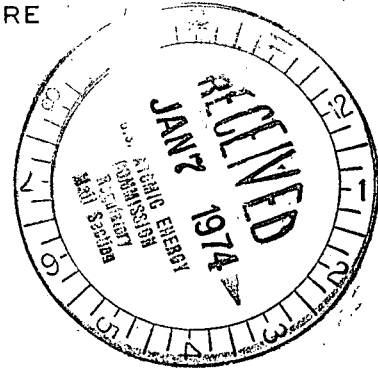




DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20250



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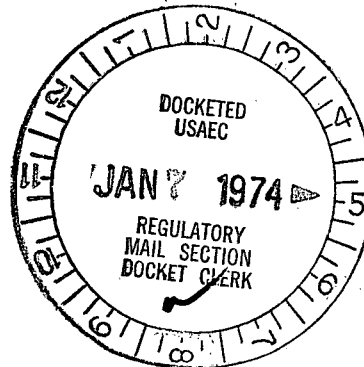
Mr. Daniel R. Muller  
Assistant Director for  
Environmental Projects  
Directorate of Licensing  
Atomic Energy Commission  
Washington, D. C. 20545

Dear Mr. Muller:

We have had the draft environmental statement for the Indian Point Nuclear Generating Plant Unit 3, Consolidated Edison Company of New York, reviewed in the relevant agencies of the Department of Agriculture, and comments from Forest Service and Soil Conservation Service, both agencies of the Department, are enclosed.

Sincerely,

FRED H. TSCHIRLEY  
Coordinator, Environmental  
Quality Activities



Enclosures

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

RE: DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT - INDIAN POINT NUCLEAR  
GENERATING PLANT UNIT NO. 3

Little adverse effect on vegetation is anticipated from construction and use of Plant No. 3. If once through cooling does not meet thermal criteria (V-7-17), however, cooling towers (Alternate B) may be used (XI-14). Salt drift from tower plumes (Appendix G 12-15) will probably affect nearby vegetation. We trust that vegetation will be included in the studies mentioned on Page G-14, par. 7.

As an indirect effect of running the plant, there will be a large amount of uranium ore (116000KG) (P.IX-4) processed. What is the effect on vegetation of the air pollution resulting from ore enrichment?

Soil Conservation Service, USDA, Comments on Draft Environmental Statement prepared by Directorate of Licensing, United States Atomic Energy Commission, related to operation of Indian Point Nuclear Generating Plant, Unit No. 3.

1. Page IV-1 - A. SUMMARY OF CONSTRUCTION STATUS - 4th line

It says, "after which this plant went critical on May 22, 1973." The word critical can be read to imply an unintended meaning. For the ordinary reviewer, clarification of the word critical is needed.

2. Page IV-1 - A.

We note that Unit No. 3 is presently under construction and is 80% completed. Completion is expected in 1974.

3. Page IV-1 - B. IMPACTS ON LAND USE 1. Onsite Construction

4th paragraph and the three following paragraphs on page IV-2 seem to say landscaping and vegetative measures are delayed because of construction. In this situation, temporary use of vegetative measures such as grasses and legumes would be appropriate. This might be discussed.