WEST BRANCH CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION 100 SOUTH MOUNTAIN ROAD
NEW CITY NEW YORK 10956 914-634-9700

December 14, 1973

U. S. Atomic Energy Commission
Washington D.C. 20545
Attn: Deputy Director of Reactor Projects
Directorate of Licensing

Re: Comment on Draft Environmental Statement for Indian Point #3, AEC Docket No. 50-286

Gentlemen:

I am writing as Vice-President of the West Branch Conservation Association. The purpose of our organization is the protection and enhancement of the environment. We are located in Rockland County, N.Y. which has over 30 miles of Hudson River shoreline and lies due west of Indian Point. Our interest in the protection of the Hudson River and its biological community is obvious.

We concur in the findings of the obvious physical destruction of fish at the present and future river water intakes and the thermal pollution of the river. However, we feel the situation is more complicated and serious than the "Statement" explores. As an example, the interaction of the thermal discharge with the newly introduced effluent from various sewage disposal plants or the proposed diversion of 500 to 1,000 million gallons per day from the river by the Hyde Park project. Also not considered are the additional thermal discharges to the river from industrial plants such as I.B.M. at poughkeepsie in the order of 2.5 X 10^8 BTU/hr at peak summer loads.

Considering the facts brought out in the "Statement" the additional possibilities delineated above and the limited knowledge of the biological funstioning of the river, we feel it would be suicidal to allow additional massive thermal discharge into the river. We therefore endorse the concept of mandating the installation of cooling towers.

The use of cooling towers for electric generating plants is certainly not novel or untried and has been extensively used in Europe, particularly in England.

An added advantage of closed circuit cooling not brought out in the "Statement" is the possibility of corrosion control which can markedly reduce corrosion and fouling of the piping and condensers which would be a monetary offset against the added cost of the cooling towers.

Very truly yours,

Walter L. Fleisher, Jr.

Walter L. Fleisher, Jr.
Vice-President

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