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Sent to Mayor & Council

Att: John Walsh

PLANNING COMMISSION  
OF PEEKSKILL  
CITY HALL  
PEEKSKILL, N. Y. 10566

September 30, 1977

CITY OF PEEKSKILL  
CITY MANAGER  
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SEP 30 1977

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U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Attention: Director, Division of Site Safety and Environmental Analysis

Re: Draft Environmental Statement for Selection of the Preferred Closed  
Cycle Cooling System at Indian Point Unit No. 3 - Docket No. 50-286

Gentlemen:

The Planning Commission of the City of Peekskill hereby expresses its opposition to the construction at Indian Point of any of the closed cycle cooling systems necessitating the construction and use of cooling towers because of the aesthetic and economic impact of these towers on the City of Peekskill and its neighboring communities.

In the Draft Environmental Statement (pages 6-33 to 6-48) the Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff notes the adverse visual impact the cooling towers and their plumes will have on the Village of Buchanan, the City of Peekskill and the surrounding area. It makes particular note of their impact on the Peekskill waterfront. On page 6-46 of the document it is stated,

"The most significant potential impact involves the southern part of the Peekskill waterfront redevelopment area, what is now Standard Brands property."

and

"A natural draft tower combination at IP-2 and IP-3 would be a considerable visual intrusion to the site. A fan-assisted natural draft tower combination would be less of an intrusion, but still out of proportion with other elements of the viewscape."

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In the Summary Comparison--Impacts of Alternative Systems--the NRC staff states,


"Visual aesthetics were found to be the most consequential category of impacts when both tower installations are considered. However, from an incremental standpoint, the staff judges that an additional natural draft cooling tower at IP-3 would be a marginally small visual intrusion to the landscape."

This is precisely the point that the Planning Commission made in our letter of April 14, 1976, relative to the closed cycle cooling system proposed for Indian Point No. 2, in which we expressed our opposition to the construction of these "preferred" natural draft type cooling towers. In its summary, the NRC staff indicates that the aesthetic impact of one such tower would be so great that the construction of a second could only produce a small additional visual intrusion on the viewscape. The thought of one or more of these monstrous structures, each wider than the length of a football field, towering more than fifty-five stories above the ground and spewing forth a saline cloud that could not only obscure the sun's rays but also shower salt droplets on the surrounding communities, was then and is now, both inconceivable and unacceptable to the Commission.

The recent power black-out and the brown-outs that have occurred over the past few years have provided ample evidence of the metropolitan area's need for the electricity generated at Indian Point and the Commission is not suggesting that the safe generation of power be in any way disrupted or discontinued. The Commission suggests that the power plant be permitted to continue to operate with the existing once-through cooling system. If a screening perimeter long enough to mitigate the intake velocity and a screen with a mesh suitable to reduce the impingement and entrapment of fish and fish eggs to acceptable levels can not be devised, the Commission is of the opinion that the establishment of hatcheries could insure the maintenance of the aquatic population at a much lower cost and certainly with less aesthetic and economic impact on the City of Peekskill and, in particular, on our waterfront redevelopment area.

As in our previous correspondence, the Planning Commission requests of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation that the City of Peekskill and its inhabitants be given consideration commensurate with that being afforded to the inhabitants of the Hudson River.

Very truly yours,

  
Edwin I. Ziegler, Chairman

cc: Mayor and Common Council

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