



ADDRESS ONLY THE DIRECTOR,  
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

# United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

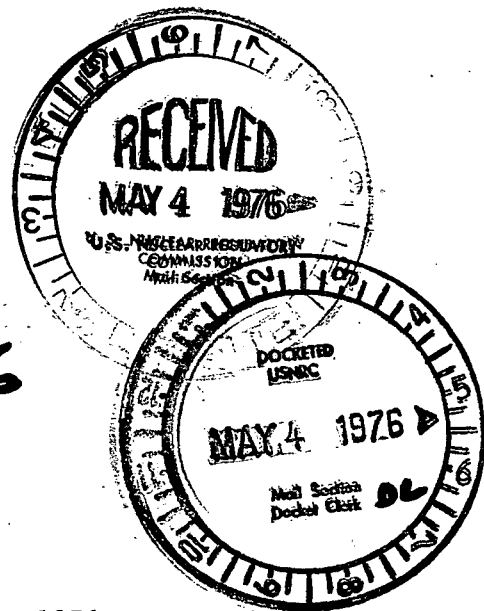
In Reply Refer To:  
FWS/ES  
ER-76/234

**Regulatory Docket File**

APR 30 1976

Mr. Daniel R. Muller  
Assistant Director for  
Environmental Projects  
Division of Reactor Licensing  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D. C. 20555

50-286



Dear Mr. Muller:

Reference is made to Mr. Knighton's letter of March 9, 1976, requesting our review of the report on "Economic and Environmental Impacts of Alternative Closed-Cycle Cooling Systems for Indian Point Unit No. 3, January 1976" and the licensees' application for amendment to the Unit's operating license, dated January 27, 1976. Our response is provided in accordance with provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.).

We have reviewed the subject documentation and concur with the licensees that a natural draft wet cooling tower system is the preferred closed-cycle cooling system which could be back-fitted on Indian Point Unit No. 3, if an alternative to the present once-through cooling system is required. Our position regarding this preferred alternative is essentially the same as that for Indian Point Unit No. 2, as identified in our comments of March 31, 1975.

Regarding the licensees' proposed January 27, 1976, amendment to the facility Operating License, we support the subject amendment only insofar as it identifies the general type of closed-cycle cooling system to be used, if required, at Indian Point Unit No. 3--specifically, a closed-cycle natural draft wet cooling tower system. It should be clear to all parties involved in the Indian Point Unit No. 3 Stipulation that the subject amendment does not constitute a commitment by NRC and other interested parties involved in the design features, operating characteristics, and siting decisions which may be proposed by the licensees at a later time.



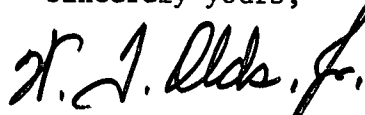
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These comments do not constitute our final assessment of the preferred closed-cycle cooling system alternative which may be required at Indian Point Unit No. 3. We appreciate this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely yours,

Handwritten signature of H. J. Olds, Jr. in cursive script.

Deputy Associate  
Director



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

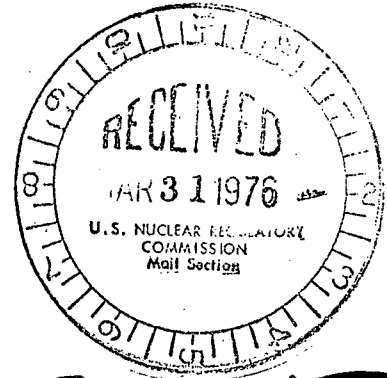
REGION II

26 FEDERAL PLAZA

NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10007

MAR 30 1976

Mr. Daniel R. Muller
Assistant Director for Environmental
Projects
Division of Reactor Licensing
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555



50-247/286

Dear Mr. Muller:

EPA Region II has issued NPDES permits requiring closed cycle cooling for certain power plants on the Hudson River, specifically: Con Edison's Indian Point Units 2 & 3; Central Hudson's Roseton Station; and Orange and Rockland's Bowline Point. The Utilities have objected to closed cycle cooling requirements in their adjudicatory hearing requests.

EPA Region II has been evaluating biological data with respect to these facilities for some time, and has been working with other Federal Agencies on this matter. On April 30, 1975, EPA Region II met with representatives of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Energy Research and Development Administration, Nuclear Regulatory Commission and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to discuss the important biological issues related to the adjudicatory hearings. Formal correspondence requesting assistance was forwarded to each of the above cited Federal Agencies on June 20, 1975. Favorable responses were received from your Agency and all the other Federal Agencies. On February 5, 1976, EPA Region II staff met with representatives of these concerned Federal Agencies to discuss (1) the progress made to date in preparation for the hearings and (2) future preparation.

The Hudson River Power Case has developed to the point where the formation of an Interagency Technical Committee is appropriate. The Committee will be comprised of an EPA Chairman/Technical Coordinator and a member from each of the participating Federal Agencies, and will coordinate the technical efforts of all the involved parties.



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It is requested that you designate a representative from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission to serve as a member of the Interagency Technical Committee. Harvey Lunenfeld, P.E., has been designated as Chairman/Technical Coordinator to represent EPA.

Your Agency's cooperation is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Lunenfeld at 212-264-9878.

Sincerely yours,



Gerald M. Hansler, P.E.  
Regional Administrator