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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 2
290 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

JAN 18 2011

Mr. David J. Wrona, Chief
Projects Branch 2
Division of License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Dear Mr. Wrona:

In accordance with Section 309 of the Clean Air Act and Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants, Supplement 38 (SGEIS) regarding Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit Nos. 2 and 3 (Indian Point) (CEQ # 20100465). The proposed Federal action would renew for an additional 20 years the current operating licenses for Indian Point Generating Units Nos. 2 and 3, (IP2, IP3) which expire in September 2013 and December 2015 respectively.

Background

The SGEIS was prepared as a plant specific supplement to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) 1996 Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement for the License Renewal of Nuclear Plants (GEIS). The GEIS was prepared to streamline the license renewal process on the premise that in general, the environmental impacts from relicensing nuclear power plants are similar. That GEIS proposed that NRC develop facility-specific SEIS documents for individual plants as the facilities apply for license renewal. EPA provided comments on the GEIS during the development process in 1992 and 1996.

Indian Point is located on approximately 239 acres of land in the Village of Buchanan in upper Westchester County, New York. Both IP2 and IP3 use Westinghouse pressurized-water reactors and nuclear steam supply systems. Primary and secondary plant cooling is provided by a once-through cooling water intake system that supplies cooling water from the Hudson River. IP2 and IP3 are each currently licensed to operate at a core power of 3216 megawatts thermal, combining to produce approximately 2158 megawatts electric. Both are refueled on a 24 month schedule. Indian Point Unit 1, which is not subject to this licensing action, is located between IP2 and IP3, but was shutdown on October 31, 1974 and has been placed in a safe storage condition awaiting final decommissioning.

EPA notes the NRC's responses to our March 11, 2009 comment letter, but we remain concerned about the aquatic impacts of cooling water intake and discharge at IP2 and IP3. In this vein, collection of new impingement/entrainment and thermal data would have provided NRC and others with the information necessary to determine the level of significance of impacts with more certainty. We also request that Region 2's Radiation and Indoor Air Branch be kept informed concerning the Generic Issue Program Issue 199, "Implications of Updated Probabilistic Seismic Hazard Estimates in Central and Eastern United States on Existing Plants" and on any future spent fuel storage facilities proposed at Indian Point under the authority of the NRC's Reactor Oversight Process.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the SGEIS. Please call Lingard Knutson of my staff, at (212) 637-3747 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

John Filippelli, Chief
Strategic Planning and Multi-Media Programs Branch