

# PUBLIC SUBMISSION

<b>As of:</b> 3/3/16 3:48 PM
<b>Received:</b> March 02, 2016
<b>Status:</b> Pending_Post
<b>Tracking No.</b> 1k0-8o9r-q0wx
<b>Comments Due:</b> March 04, 2016
<b>Submission Type:</b> Web

**Docket:** NRC-2008-0672

Environmental Impact Statement; Availability, etc.: Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit Nos. 2 and 3, Buchanan, NY; License Renewal and Public Meeting

**Comment On:** NRC-2008-0672-0029

Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.; Indian Point Nuclear Generating Unit Nos. 2 and 3; Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement; Request for Comment

**Document:** NRC-2008-0672-DRAFT-0029

Comment on FR Doc # 2015-32777

*12/29/2015*  
*80 FR 81377*

## Submitter Information

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**Organization:** US DOI  
**Government Agency Type:** Federal  
**Government Agency:** DOI

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## General Comment

The US Department of the Interior Submits Comments on the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement to Supplement 38 GEIS for Indian Point Generating Stations 2 & 3, NRC-2008-0672.

## Attachments

DOI-DSEIS#38GEIS-NY-IndianPoint-NRC-2008-0672

**SUNSI Review Complete**

Template = ADM - 013

E-RIDS= ADM-03

Add= *m. Wentzel (msw2)*



# United States Department of the Interior

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March 2, 2016

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James G. Danna  
Chief, Projects Branch 2  
Division of License Renewal  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555

**RE: COMMENTS**  
**Draft supplement (DSEIS) to Supplement 38 to the Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) for Renewal of Operating Licenses for Indian Point Generating Units 2 and 3, Westchester County, New York, NRC-2008-0672**

Dear Mr. Danna:

The U.S. Department of the Interior (Department) has reviewed the December 29, 2015, NOTICE OF DRAFT SUPPLEMENT (DSEIS) TO SUPPLEMENT 38 TO THE GENERIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (GEIS) FOR RENEWAL OF OPERATING LICENSES DPR-26 and DPR-64 FOR INDIAN POINT GENERATING UNITS 2 AND 3. The projects are located on the Hudson River in the Village of Buchanan, Westchester County, New York.

## Fish and Wildlife Resources

The following comments and recommendations are submitted pursuant to the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.).

Indian Point impacts a variety of freshwater and estuarine fishery resources, in particular blueback herring (*Alosa aestivalis*) and rainbow smelt (*Osmerus mordax*). The primary impacts occur from entrainment of fish. Indian Point currently has no measures to protect fishery resources from entrainment. It is our understanding (W. Little, NYSDEC, Pers. Comm.) that wedgewire screening of the intakes, closed-cycle cooling (i.e., cooling towers), and seasonal shutdown (e.g., during critical fish spawning periods in the late spring and summer) have been

examined in detail in discussions with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC).

The most effective of these three measures would be cooling towers. With cooling towers, water must be withdrawn from the Hudson River once to fill the towers. Although occasional replenishment may be needed, fishery resources would no longer be susceptible to continuous entrainment impacts as under the current situation. Cooling towers, which have been used elsewhere for many years, represent the Best Available Technology to minimize fish entrainment at Indian Point. The Department recommends that cooling towers be installed to minimize fish entrainment.

#### Threatened and Endangered Species

The following comments are provided as technical assistance pursuant to the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

In a letter dated July 14, 2015, the Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) provided its concurrence with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's "not likely to adversely affect" determinations for the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) and northern long-eared bat (*M. septentrionalis*). No further consultation or coordination pursuant to the ESA is required with the Service unless project plans change (including the construction of cooling towers) or additional information on listed or proposed species or critical habitats becomes available.

The most recent compilation of federally listed and proposed endangered and threatened species for each county in New York is available for your information on the New York Field Office website<sup>1</sup>. Until the proposed project is complete, we recommend that you check this website every 90 days from the date of this letter to ensure that listed species presence/absence information for the proposed project is current. For additional information on fish and wildlife resources or state listed species, we suggest you contact the appropriate NYSDEC regional office(s) and the New York Natural Heritage Program Information Services.<sup>2</sup>

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the Draft Supplement. If you have any questions or desire additional information, please contact Stephen Patch of the Service at 607-753-9334 or [Stephen\\_Patch@fws.gov](mailto:Stephen_Patch@fws.gov). Please contact me at (617) 223-8565 if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



Andrew L. Raddant  
Regional Environmental Officer

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<sup>1</sup> Additional information may be found on the Service's website at:  
<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/nyfo/es/section7.htm>

<sup>2</sup> Additional information referred to above may be found on the Service's website in footnote #1.