

Consolidated Edison and four other utilities reached a compromise with the Environmental Protection Agency and environmentalists that is aimed at protecting fish in the Hudson River. Under the settlement, Con Ed and the utilities agreed, among other things, to spend \$18 million on aquatic life studies. Opponents of the plant agreed that the utilities would not be required to install closed-cycle cooling systems at three generating plants, including Indian Point. New York Times, 12/30; Wall Street Journal, 12/22. In an editorial, the New York Times said "this settlement comes close to justifying the proclamations of a 'historic achievement.' It ends nearly two decades of strife. . .and cuts short the battle over cooling towers. . .New Yorkers should rejoice in the resolution of issues that were threatening to hang over them for years." 12/20.

WASHINGTON--The NRC staff has recommended that Consolidated Edison be fined \$5,000 for allegedly running Indian Point 2 while a special safety spray system intended to prevent the escape of iodine in emergencies was turned off in the reactor building. Wall Street Journal, 12/22.

GLEN ELLYN, ILL--The NRC has proposed a \$4,000 fine against Commonwealth Edison for allegedly improperly packaging a low-level radioactive waste shipment sent from the Dresden nuclear power station to Richland, Washington, Wall Street Journal, 12/22.

An article in the New York Times, 12/21, says a "chemical explosion that blew plutonium dust into the air eight years ago" at a government research laboratory in New York State may have "tained a 1,200-acre forest addition to the Appalachian Trail" near Nuclear Lake. The NRC and the state Department of Environmental Conservation certified the lake area as clean and released the land for unrestricted use, but a group called the Harlem Valley Alliance objects to the opening of the site as a park.

In a letter to the editor of the New York Times, Judith Johnsrud writes that the NRC has proposed changes to regulations that would "deregulate certain medical and research wastes and permit their disposal in sewage systems and sanitary landfills. . .(and) allow the recycling of metals contaminated with technetium-99" that would permit "just a little more cancer." 12/20.

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