

Statement of
The Staten Island (N.Y.) Chamber of Commerce
to
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
re: Docket Nos. 50-247SP & 50-286SP
by: Richard B. Irwin, CCE Executive Vice President

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The Staten Island Chamber of Commerce is an organization of approximately one thousand (1000) business and professional members established in the State of New York in 1895.

One of the objectives and purposes set forth in Article I of its Constitution is to "promote business and community well-being and development."

It is our considered judgment that the shut-down of Con Edison's Indian Point #2 and PASNY's Indian Point #3 would be extremely detrimental to our community's well-being. We cite the added cost of electricity to our residents and businesses; the increase in cost to the mass transit system and the danger of relying on foreign sources for oil.

Con Edison customers today have the undesirable distinction of paying the highest electric rates in the country. The closing of Con Ed's nuclear plant, which is producing its cheapest energy, regrettably would mean that its customers would be forced to pay more because their power will be generated at higher costs in oil or coal fueled facilities. The United States General Accounting Office has estimated that the dollar savings to customers of power from Indian Point as opposed to oil fueled plants amounts to \$600 million per year.

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Over fifty percent of the employed persons living on Staten Island commute off the Island daily. The closing of the PASNY nuclear plant will mean that the cost of energy to operate the subways will have to increase on the same basis as set-forth above and our commuters will most certainly face an increase in subway fares. Additionally, this will impact upon the business and commerce of our City. Large employers may experience difficulty in attracting entry level employes. Many businesses may very well decide to leave the City, creating unemployment, increased social service costs and a decline in taxes for the City and State.

The shut-down of these two nuclear plants which account for approximately 30 percent of the City's electric usage, would require other plants burning oil or coal to replace the lost generating capacity. It is estimated that it would take 18 million barrels of oil to produce that electricity. We are concerned about a further reliance on oil, especially imported oil, for our electricity. The cost of oil has increased two thousand (2000) percent since 1970. With a new demand by Con Ed and PASNY for 18 million barrels of oil, what will be the effect on the price and can a reliable source be assured?

It is our firm belief that the best interests of our community and our City will be best served by the continued operation of Indian Point 2 and 3 and urge your serious consideration of our position.

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