

3/10/72 Confirm Fish Kills by Con Ed

Albany, March 9 (Special)—A state biologist and an assistant state attorney general testified today that Consolidated Edison's generating facilities at Indian Point have killed "a significant" number of fish, running into the millions, since 1963.

The biologist, Anthony J. Bonavist of the Department Environmental Conservation, said Con Ed might have expected last month's fish kill at plant No. 2 at Indian Point in light of the continuing kills at plant No. 1.

Both plants are nuclear and both draw cooling water from the Hudson River. Plant No. 1 has been operating since 1963 while the newer No. 2 is undergoing testing preparatory to start-up.

NY DAILY NEWS

Soviet Sub Offered Aid

W Post 3-10 Associated Press

"From one sailor to another," wrote the American to the Russian, "I would like you to know that we are prepared to assist in any way we can."

The American, Adm. Elmo R. Zumwalt Jr., chief of Naval Operations, was offering his Russian counterpart, Adm. of the Fleet Sergei G. Gorshkov, the U.S. Navy's help in aiding a stricken Soviet missile submarine adrift in the North Atlantic.

Details of the offer were disclosed yesterday by the Pentagon.

Zumwalt's offer, and one made separately by Secretary of State William P. Rogers, were refused politely by the Russians as they assembled a rescue armada of ten warships, tugs and supply vessels on the high seas about 850 miles northeast of Newfoundland.

The Russians have been trying without success to restore power to the disabled submarine, which surfaced Feb. 25 in a severe Atlantic storm. U.S. officials say it apparently experienced a breakdown in its nuclear power plant.

A few members of the sub's 90-man crew have been taken off by helicopters in recent days, the Pentagon said. Additional Soviet ships were headed for the area, including the helicopter carrier Leningrad from the Mediterranean.

The State Department said Rogers contacted Soviet Ambassador Anatoly F. Dobrynin on Feb. 29 to offer help. Zumwalt's offer was cabled to the U.S. embassy in Moscow and relayed to the Russian government.

NEW YORK TIMES 3/10/72

Princeton Gets \$600,000

Special to The New York Times

PRINCETON, N. J., March 9 —The National Science Foundation has awarded almost \$600,000 to Princeton University's Low Energy Nuclear Physics Project to continue investigation of the structure of atomic nuclei. The Atomic Energy Commission had provided \$600,000 to \$700,000 for each of the years between 1968 and 1970 but last year gave only \$400,000.

PO-3-10 (Indian Point)
SP-3-10 (Foreign)
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MAR 1 1972

Ecologists Praise Order PAGE ONE Halting Indian Pt. Tests

By JOYCE BERGENHAN
WHN Staff Writer

Environmentalists along the Hudson River today hailed the state's order that requires Consolidated Edison Co. to halt testing pumps and intake structures at its second nuclear power plant at Indian Point, and they indicated they will launch a renewed effort to require the utility to build cooling towers at the plant.

The order, issued Tuesday by Commissioner Henry Diamond of the Environmental Conservation Department, cited what Diamond called "substantial fish kills which have occurred in the last week."

Asserting that more than 100,000 fish had been killed at the plant's intake system since last Wednesday, Diamond said: "It is clear that the continued operation of the cooling water intake system as now designed is an immediate threat to the fish life of the Hudson, and it must cease. Better fish protection methods must be found which do not harm the environment."

THE COMMISSIONER said a hearing will be held in Albany on March 9 to determine what additional action, if any, the department should take regarding the fish kills. Among the courses open to it are the levying of civil penalties as well as the revocation, modification or suspension of state permits issued for the plant.

Indian Point No. 2, a 873,000-kilowatt facility on the Hudson just south of Peekskill is completed, but needs an operating

license from the Atomic Energy Commission before it can be put on the line. Public hearings by an AEC licensing board have been held sporadically since December 1970, and are recessed, probably until April.

Con Ed spokesmen have consistently stated they hope to have the plant operating at least 50 per cent power

for this summer's expected power crunch, but the state Public Service Commission has indicated it thinks the utility has been unrealistic about including the plant in its projections for the summer's power supply.

Asked today if Diamond's action dampens Con Ed's optimism about having the plant at least partially in operation this summer, a Con Ed spokesman said the utility "is at this point awaiting the results of the hearing on March 9. We don't know what the state will do at that time."

ACCORDING TO Diamond, the dead fish — mainly white perch with some striped bass and other species — were killed when the suction in the pumping system pulled them against the protective screening system and impaled them on the screens. He said most of the fish were about two inches long, but some were as large as "eight to ten inches."

Both he and the Con Ed spokesman said the element of thermal (heated water) pollution did not enter into the deaths because the plant itself has not been in operation.

The Con Ed spokesman said the utility had been testing Indian Point No. 2's circulation

pumps that will supply condenser cooling water "in order to obtain data to help minimize fish problems when the plant is running."

He said the last of the pumps was shut down Sunday "because some of the equipment used with the pumps malfunctioned during the testing procedures. The company does not plan to operate them until after the March 9 hearing."

WINTER IS the season in which Con Ed has had the most fish-kill problems in connection with its first nuclear plant at Indian Point, a 265,000-kilowatt facility in operation for almost a decade. It is for this reason, said the Con Ed spokesman, that the utility chose to test the circulation system at this time.

Because of the several million fish killed at Indian Point No. 1, during the past 10 years, the Hudson River Fishermen's Association is one of three environmental groups with intervenor status in the current AEC hearings.

In its intervention, the HRFPA consistently has questioned Con Ed's provisions for fish protection, indicating it favors a closed-cycle water

cooling system that would not require the vast quantities of high-velocity water needed for the current once-through cooling system.

Con Ed has said it will build the towers if required to, but it has cited their multi-million dollar cost and what the utility considers their unesthetic qualities (cooling towers at other power plants are as tall as nearly 500 feet and as wide as 400 feet at their base..

Con Ed officials have also stated that "plume" of steam that rises several hundred feet from the towers would be a questionable quality on a water body such as the Hudson which is very saline during certain parts of the year. "There's a real possibility

that there would be serious salt fall-out problem when the water recondenses when it cools off," they have said.

ROBERT BOYLE of Croton-on-Hudson, a spokesman for the HRFPA, renewed the cooling tower campaign today when he said his group "calls upon Con Edison to begin a serious engineering study of closed circuit cooling devices which are the only solution to ending the fish kills at Indian Point."

He said HRFPA members who viewed cooling towers in other states found them "not ugly, but possessing a Brancusi-like beauty," but he noted his group is not wed to cooling towers per se.

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PO-3-15 (Indian Point)

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"There may be other ways of engineering to accomplish the same purpose," he said. "All we know is that any once-through cooling system that requires one million gallons of water a minute — like the one at Indian Point No. 2 — has too great a velocity for juvenile fish that can't resist that kind of pull of water — especially in the winter when their metabolism is slower and they're more dormant."

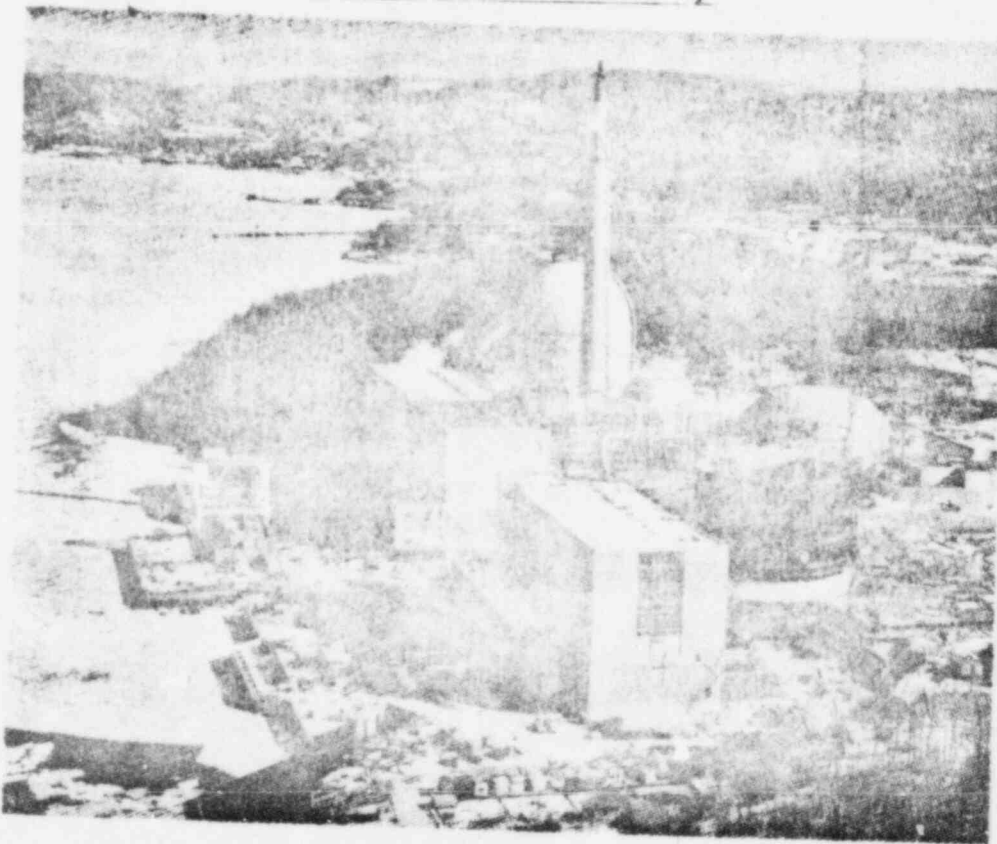
Boyle said his group would participate in the March 9 hearing "if it will serve some useful purpose." At the hearing, Con Ed has been ordered to produce its record of fish kills during February and January — a period during which

Boyle and other HRFA members have had permission to monitor the water intake systems at Indian Point.

THE CON ED spokesman asserted the utility long has been trying to solve the fish problem at Indian Point and he noted it has established a fish advisory board and made a standing offer to build and operate a fish hatchery.

"The board," he said, "is composed of highly reputable scientists who are advising Con Ed on the methods to minimize the plant's effect on fish. Under the hatchery proposal, the company would replace any fish that might be destroyed as a result of operating the plant."

In addition to being the subject of Diamon's March 9 hearing, the fish problem also will come under close scrutiny when the AEC resumes its hearing on an operating license for the plant because, as previously scheduled, the balance of the hearing is to consider "non-radiological effects on the environment."



WHERE FISH DIED
Con Ed's Indian Point nuclear plant at Buchanan where test pumping operations have been ordered halted.

PO-3-15 (Indian Point)

NEW YORK POST 3-1-72

NY Post 3/1/72

Con Ed Studying Fish Kill

By STEVE LAWRENCE

Consolidated Edison, despite its insistence that a second nuclear power plant at Indian Point will not disrupt Hudson River ecology, has quietly begun a \$10 million, five-year study of the plant's impact on fish in the waterway.

The multi-million dollar fishery impact study now in progress was disclosed in papers filed last week with the Atomic Energy Commission as part of Con Ed's application for an operating license for the 873-megawatt nuclear plant.

The disclosure came just days before the State's chief environment officer, Henry Diamond, ordered the utility to stop testing at Indian Point 2 because, he said, "more than 100 thousand fish" have been killed there in less than a week.

The new Con Ed study, combined with the fish kills reported by Diamond commissioner of the State Dept. of Environmental Conservation, tended according to one environment group to throw some doubt on Con Ed's consistent assurances that its Indian Point 2 unit would be ecologically sound.

"Our best judgement is that we can expect that the operation of Indian Point No. 2 will have no adverse effect on the Hudson River fishery," said the cost-benefit study submitted to the AEC.

"In order to confirm this

expectation," the document said, "the company asked the Hudson River policy Committee to conduct a \$10 million, five-year study of the effect of Indian Point operations on the Hudson River fisheries to supplement the data earlier collected."

A spokesman for Con Ed said the company was now in the process of collecting data concerning recent fish kills to present to Diamond at a hearing scheduled in Albany next week.

Pumps Closed Sunday

In ordering Indian Point 2 testing stopped, Diamond said, "It is clear that the continued operation of the cooling water intake system as now designed is an immediate threat to the fish life of the Hudson and must cease." This was the first reported fish kill at the second nuclear plant unit. A smaller atomic plant at Indian Point has had chronic fish-kill problems.

Con Edison said it had been testing the cooling system at the plant "to obtain data to help minimize fish problems." But pumps at the unit were shut down last Sunday "because some of the equipment used with the pumps malfunctioned." This was two days before Diamond's order was issued, according to the utility.

NEWS AMERICAN 3-1-72

Ecology Studies Start On Power Site Proposals

ANNAPOLIS — (AP) — Natural Resources Secretary James B. Coulter said Monday that detailed environmental studies have begun on two sites proposed for power plant construction by the Baltimore Gas and Electric Company.

The contract to conduct the studies was awarded to the Applied Physics Laboratory of the Johns Hopkins University, Coulter said.

The two sites are Brandon Shores, 375 acres in Anne Arundel County near the mouth of Baltimore Harbor, proposed as the site for a 1200-megawatt plant using oil fuel, with closed cooling towers and sought to be operational by 1977; and Perryman, 708 acres in Harford County on the Bush River, site of a proposed 1800 megawatt nuclear plant with closed cycle cooling towers anticipated to be operational by 1979.

The field studies are to determine what effects the plant con-

struction and operation would have on the environment.

Results of the studies will be used by the Department of Natural Resources in its recommendation to the Public Service Commission as to whether the plants should be built.

Under study will be such items as water availability and quality, water currents, air currents, air quality and dispersion.

Funding has been approved until July 1, 1972, and totals \$366,000.

The studies are expected to last a year.

All funds are raised by the one-tenth of a mil surcharge applied on every kilowatt hour of electricity generated in Maryland.

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NEW YORK TIMES 3-7-72

CON ED EMPLOYEE ARRAIGNED IN FIRE

Mechanic Is Charged With
Setting Indian Point Blaze
3-2

Special to The New York Times

WHITE PLAINS, March 6 — A Consolidated Edison employee who worked as a mechanic at the Indian Point 2 nuclear power plant was arraigned in County Court here this morning on charges of setting a fire that caused millions of dollars of damage last November.

Arthur Rickey Jr., a 27-year-old father of three, pleaded not guilty to charges of arson and criminal mischief in the second degree. He had been indicted by a grand jury last week. If convicted, he faces a maximum penalty of 25 years in jail.

Mr. Rickey was released on his own recognizance pending the start of his trial next month.

The Westchester County District Attorney's office has declined to discuss a possible motive or the circumstances of Mr. Rickey's arrest, which followed an intensive three-month investigation.

On Jan. 29, the day of his arrest, Mr. Rickey voluntarily committed himself to the Franklin D. Roosevelt Veterans Hospital in nearby Montrose, where he remained as a patient until today. Neither the nature of the treatment he received there nor the connection between his arrest and hospital admission is known.

A spokesman for Consolidated Edison said today that Mr. Rickey was a good worker and had been suspended with pay and benefits pending the outcome of his case. He has been with the company for seven years.

The fire caused extensive damage to electrical equipment in the plants' primary auxiliary building. According to a company spokesman, the Westinghouse Electric Corporation, prime contractor for the 873,000-kilowatt power plant, has been authorized to spend "up to \$5-billion" on repairs, which are now substantially completed.

WALL STREET JOURNAL 3-7-72

Cambridge Nuclear Had 6-Month Deficit; Bank Calls in \$1 Million Loan 3-7-72

By a WALL STREET JOURNAL Staff Reporter

BILLERICA, Mass. — Cambridge Nuclear Corp. reported a net loss for the six months ended Dec. 31 and said a creditor, Middlesex Bank, Everett, Mass., has declared the company in default and has called in a \$1 million loan made last Oct. 14.

Cambridge Nuclear said it "is considering various alternatives" to meet financial obligations and to provide for continued operation. The company, which produces supplies for the nuclear power industry, said "substantially all of the assets of the company and its subsidiaries are mortgaged or pledged as security for the loan."

A spokesman said an announcement is expected "probably before the end of the week."

For the six months, the company reported a net loss of \$464,000 on sales of \$2.2 million. A year ago, the company reported six-month net income of \$65,000, or eight cents a share, on sales of \$3.7 million. A company spokesman said the year-earlier figures probably will be restated to reflect changes in the company's business.

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