

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF:

Paul Bedrosian  
Charles Corkin II  
Co-Chairmen

DATE: January 30, 1973

SUBJECT:

Committee for Power Plant Siting and Operation

New England Electric - Rome Point

TO:

Dr. Clifford V. Smith  
Deputy Regional Administrator

On December 22, 1972 representatives of New England Power Company met with the Regional Power Plant Committee and asked whether EPA would issue a permit for a once-through cooling discharge associated with generating facilities of at least 900 megawatts. The answer to that question depends primarily on the opinion of experts in the field of biology.

Our biologists, Robert Leger and Dr. Jan Prager, have reviewed all of the available studies on the West Passage of Narraganset Bay where Rome Point is located and have concluded that a once-through cooling system would be unacceptable. Attached hereto are copies of their reports.

The Committee met on January 30, 1973 and voted unanimously to accept the conclusions of Messrs. Leger and Prager and to recommend that the Agency inform the Company that a permit for once-through cooling would not be issued. A letter to Edward Plumley, Vice-President of New England Power Company is attached for your approval.

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

SUBJECT: New England Electric - Rome Point, Rhode Island

DATE: December 26, 1972

FROM: Charles Corkin II

TO: The Files

On December 22, 1972, Edward Plumley and Ogdon Sawyer of the New England Power Company met with the Committee for Power Plant Siting and Operation in order to request EPA to take a position on whether Rome Point Rhode Island is an appropriate site for a power plant.

Present for the EPA: Jan Prager, Joan Harrison, Wally Woo (for Tony Cortese), Byron Keene (for Paul Bedrosian), Bob Leger and Charles Corkin.

The Company wants to construct and operate power generating facilities consisting of at least a 900 meg. plant but would like to have two eleven hundred meg. plants. The preference is for atomic energy but, if necessary, fossil fuel can be used.

The specific problem with which this committee must first deal is whether EPA should allow the discharge of untreated cooling water into the estuary at Rome Point.

The Company will submit the results of a biological study done by George Matheson concerning the population of that marine environment and the probable effects of the heated effluent.

Bob Leger and Jan Prager will review the Matheson study.

Prager, Harrison and Corkin will review the Rome Point site as well as other potential sites on the Rhode Island coastline.

Ogden Sawyer indicated that if permission for once-through cooling would be denied the Company will not build a plant at Rome Point, but would seek a site more suitable for the discharge of heated water.

Sawyer and Plumley were grateful for our assurance that we would review the problem and make a recommendation as soon as possible.