

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Public Affairs
Washington, DC 20555
Phone 301-415-8200 Fax 301-415-2234
Internet: opa@nrc.gov

No. 96-22

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
(Thursday, February 1, 1996)

NRC STAFF APPROVES DECOMMISSIONING PLAN
FOR INDIAN POINT NUCLEAR UNIT 1

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has issued an order approving Consolidated Edison Company's decommissioning plan for its Indian Point 1 nuclear power plant near Buchanan, New York.

The plant, first licensed in March 1962, was permanently shut down on October 31, 1974, because its emergency core cooling system did not meet the then current regulatory requirements. Since January 1976, all fuel from the reactor has been stored in the plant's on site spent fuel pool, where the fuel is expected to remain until a Federal repository is available to receive it.

Under the decommissioning plan submitted by Consolidated Edison, Unit 1 will be kept in safe storage until Indian Point 2, also owned by the utility, ceases to operate, after which both units will be dismantled at the same time. The utility must submit a detailed dismantling plan for NRC approval before the start of major dismantlement activities.

Under safe storage, the facility is left intact, but all fuel is removed from the reactor core, and radioactive fluids and wastes must be removed from the site. The facility subsequently is decontaminated to levels that permit release of the property for unrestricted use.

In reviewing the decommissioning plan, the NRC staff concluded that there is reasonable assurance that the health and safety of the public will not be endangered and that maintaining the facility in safe storage will not cause any significant environmental effects. Consolidated Edison first filed its decommissioning plan in 1980, and periodically revised it in response to NRC questions, most recently this past July.

Further details on the decommissioning plan and the staff's action are available for public inspection at the NRC Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, NW, Washington, DC, and at the Local Public Document Room for Indian Point 1 at the White Plains Public Library, 100 Martine Avenue, White Plains, N.Y.

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