

March 3, 2000

Mr. Oliver D. Kingsley, President
Nuclear Generation Group
Commonwealth Edison Company
Executive Towers West III
1400 Opus Place, Suite 500
Downers Grove, IL 60515

SUBJECT: BYRON - NOTICE OF CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF TRANSFER OF FACILITY OPERATING LICENSES AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS AND OPPORTUNITY FOR A HEARING (TAC NOS. MA7729 AND MA7727)

Dear Mr. Kingsley:

Enclosed is a copy of a "Notice of Consideration of Approval of Transfer of Facility Operating Licenses and Conforming Amendments and Opportunity for a Hearing" related to the application dated December 20, 1999, as supplemented January 14, 2000, from Commonwealth Edison Company (ComEd). This application seeks approval under 10 CFR 50.80 of the transfer of the Facility Operating Licenses for Byron Station, Units 1 and 2. The transfer would be to a new generating company, currently referred to as GENCO. GENCO will be a subsidiary of a new holding company, Exelon Corporation, which will be formed as a result of a merger of Unicom Corporation (the parent company of ComEd) and PECO Energy Corporation. The application also seeks approval of conforming license amendments, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.90, to reflect the transfer.

This notice is being forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

/RA/

George F. Dick, Jr., Sr. Project Manager, Section 2
Project Directorate III
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. STN 50-454
and STN 50-455

Enclosure: Notice

cc w/encl: See next page

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O. Kingsley
Commonwealth Edison Company

Byron Station
Units 1 and 2

cc:

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O. Kingsley
Commonwealth Edison Company

- 2 -

Byron Station
Units 1 and 2

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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

COMMONWEALTH EDISON COMPANY

BYRON STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2

DOCKET NOS. 50-454 AND 50-455

NOTICE OF CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF TRANSFER OF
FACILITY OPERATING LICENSES AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS
AND OPPORTUNITY FOR A HEARING

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering the issuance of an order under 10 CFR 50.80 approving the transfer of Facility Operating Licenses Nos. NPF-37 and NPF-66 for Byron Station, Units 1 and 2, currently held by Commonwealth Edison Company (ComEd), as the owner and licensed operator. The transfer would be to a new generating company, currently referred to as GENCO. GENCO will be a subsidiary of a new holding company, Exelon Corporation, which will be formed as a result of a merger of Unicom Corporation (the parent company of ComEd) and PECO Energy Corporation. The Commission is also considering amending the licenses for administrative purposes to reflect the proposed transfer. The facility is located in Ogle County, Illinois.

According to an application for approval filed by ComEd, GENCO would assume ownership of the facility following approval of the proposed transfer of the licenses, and would become exclusively responsible for the operation, maintenance, and eventual decommissioning of Byron. No physical changes to the facility or operational changes are being proposed in the application.

The proposed amendments would replace references to ComEd in the license with references to GENCO and make other changes for administrative purposes to reflect the proposed transfer.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 50.80, no license, or any right thereunder, shall be transferred, directly or indirectly, through transfer of control of the license, unless the Commission shall give its consent in writing. The Commission will approve an application for the transfer of a license if the Commission determines that the proposed transferee is qualified to hold the license, and that the transfer is otherwise consistent with applicable provisions of law, regulations, and orders issued by the Commission pursuant thereto.

Before issuance of the proposed conforming license amendments, the Commission will have made findings as required by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act) and the Commission's regulations.

As provided in 10 CFR 2.1315, unless otherwise determined by the Commission with regard to a specific application, the Commission has determined that any amendment to the license of a utilization facility which does no more than conform the license to reflect the transfer action involves no significant hazards consideration. No contrary determination has been made with respect to this specific license amendment application. In light of the generic determination reflected in 10 CFR 2.1315, no public comments with respect to significant hazards considerations are being solicited, notwithstanding the general comment procedures contained in 10 CFR 50.91.

The filing of requests for hearing and petitions for leave to intervene, and written comments with regard to the license transfer application, are discussed below.

By March 29, 2000, any person whose interest may be affected by the Commission's action on the application may request a hearing and, if not, the applicant may

petition for leave to intervene in a hearing proceeding on the Commission's action. Requests for a hearing and petitions for leave to intervene should be filed in accordance with the Commission's rules of practice set forth in Subpart M, "Public Notification, Availability of Documents and Records, Hearing Requests and Procedures for Hearings on License Transfer Applications," of 10 CFR Part 2. In particular, such requests and petitions must comply with the requirements set forth in 10 CFR 2.1306, and should address the considerations contained in 10 CFR 2.1308(a). Untimely requests and petitions may be denied, as provided in 10 CFR 2.1308(b), unless good cause for failure to file on time is established. In addition, an untimely request or petition should address the factors that the Commission will also consider, in reviewing untimely requests or petitions, set forth in 10 CFR 2.1308(b)(1)-(2).

Requests for a hearing and petitions for leave to intervene should be served upon: Ms. Pamela B. Stroebel, Senior Vice President and General Counsel, Commonwealth Edison Company, P.O. Box 767, Chicago, Illinois 60690-0767; the General Counsel, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555 (e-mail address for filings regarding license transfer cases only: OGCLT@NRC.gov); and the Secretary of the Commission, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, Attention: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff, in accordance with 10 CFR 2.1313.

The Commission will issue a notice or order granting or denying a hearing request or intervention petition, designating the issues for any hearing that will be held and designating the Presiding Officer. A notice granting a hearing will be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER and served on the parties to the hearing.

As an alternative to requests for hearing and petitions to intervene, by April 10, 2000, persons may submit written comments regarding the license transfer application,

as provided for in 10 CFR 2.1305. The Commission will consider and, if appropriate, respond to these comments, but such comments will not otherwise constitute part of the decisional record. Comments should be submitted to the Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, Attention: Rulemakings and Adjudications Staff, and should cite the publication date and page number of this FEDERAL REGISTER notice.

For further details with respect to this action, see the application dated December 20, 1999, as supplemented January 14, 2000, available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and accessible electronically through the ADAMS Public Electronic Reading Room link at the NRC Web site (<http://www.nrc.gov>).

Dated at Rockville, Maryland this 3rd day of March 2000.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

/RA/

George F. Dick, Jr., Sr. Project Manager, Section 2
Project Directorate III
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation