

June 2, 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: COMPLETION OF ACTIONS FOR BULLETIN 96-03, "POTENTIAL PLUGGING OF EMERGENCY CORE COOLING SUCTION STRAINERS BY DEBRIS IN BOILING-WATER REACTORS," LASALLE COUNTY STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2 (TAC NOS. M96151 AND M96152)

Dear Mr. Kingsley:

On May 6, 1996, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued Bulletin (BL) 96-03, "Potential Plugging of Emergency Core Cooling Suction Strainers by Debris in Boiling-Water Reactors" to all holders of operating licenses or construction permits for boiling-water reactors (BWRs). The NRC issued BL 96-03 to ensure that the emergency core cooling systems (ECCS) in BWRs can perform their intended safety function to mitigate the effects of a postulated loss-of-coolant accident (LOCA). The BL provided three options for resolving this issue including: (1) installation of large capacity passive strainers, (2) installation of self-cleaning strainers, or (3) installation of a backflush system.

In BL 96-03, the NRC staff specifically requested that licensees submit the following reports for each of their facilities:

1. A description of planned actions and mitigative strategies to use, the schedule for implementation, and proposed technical specification, if appropriate.
2. A report confirming completion and summarizing actions taken.

In response to BL 96-03, you provided a letter dated November 1, 1996. You stated that you planned to install large capacity passive strainers which would be designed using the guidance in the Boiling Water Reactors Owners Group Utility Resolution Guidance (URG). The staff reviewed the URG and issued a safety evaluation on August 20, 1998. Commonwealth Edison's (ComEd's) review of the NRC's safety evaluation was provided by letter dated October 19, 1998. By letter dated April 28, 2000, you informed the staff that you had completed all actions requested by the bulletin. These actions included: (1) large capacity passive strainers were installed and tested in both units; (2) the wetwells of both units were desludged and the suppression chambers, strainers, and downcomers were inspected; (3) the non-reflective metal insulation systems in the drywell were inspected and reworked to remove fiber sources; and (4) procedures were implemented that require inspections of the drywell and wetwell to be performed at each refueling outage and desludging of the suppression chamber every refueling outage until the foreign material exclusion controls are proven.

O. Kingsley

- 2 -

The staff has reviewed your response and has determined that the actions taken should minimize the potential for clogging of ECCS suction strainers and ensure the capability of the ECCS to provide long-term cooling following a LOCA as required by 10 CFR 50.46. The staff considers your actions responsive to the concerns raised in BL 96-03. Therefore, BL 96-03 is closed for your facility. Detailed reviews of your strainer design and 10 CFR 50.59 evaluation may be performed on a plant-specific basis in the future.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Donna M. Skay, Project Manager, Section 2
Project Directorate III
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-373 and 50-374

cc: See next page

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- 2 -

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-2-

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