

November 29, 2000

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

**SUBJECT: MID-CYCLE PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND INSPECTION PLAN - BYRON
NUCLEAR POWER STATION**

Dear Mr. Kingsley:

On November 7, 2000, the NRC staff completed its Mid-Cycle Plant Performance assessment of the Byron Nuclear Power Station. The Mid-Cycle Review for Byron involved the participation of all technical divisions in evaluating performance indicators (PIs) and inspection results for the period of April 2, 2000 through September 30, 2000. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of our assessment of your safety performance during this period and our plans for future inspections at your facility so that you will have an opportunity to prepare for these inspections and to inform us of any planned inspections which may conflict with your plant activities.

Plant performance for the most recent quarter was within the Licensee Response Column of the NRC's Action Matrix, based on all inspection findings being classified as having very low safety significance (Green) and all PIs indicating performance at a level requiring no additional NRC oversight (Green). Therefore, we plan to conduct only baseline inspections at your facility through September 30, 2001. However, the NRC continued to receive a high number of allegations regarding Byron Station. During a June 27, 2000, public meeting between the NRC staff and ComEd management to discuss safety conscious work environment issues, your staff concluded that a safety conscious work environment exists at the Byron Station and that employees feel free to raise safety issues. We acknowledge that your staff continued to take actions to improve in this area. The NRC will continue to monitor the issue.

The enclosure details the scheduled inspections that will occur through September 30, 2001. The inspection plan is provided to minimize the resource impact on your staff and allow for scheduling conflicts and personnel availability to be resolved in advance of inspector arrival onsite. Routine resident inspections are not listed due to their ongoing and continuous nature. The last 6 months of the inspection plans are tentative and may be revised at the end-of-cycle review meeting.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/ADAMS/index.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

If circumstances arise which cause us to change this inspection plan, we will contact you to discuss the change as soon as possible. Please contact me at (630) 829-9637 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Michael J. Jordan, Chief
Reactor Projects Branch 3

Docket Nos. 50-454, 50-455
License Nos. NPF-37, NPF-66

Enclosure: Inspection/Activity Plan

See Attached Distribution

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