

December 08, 2000

PSLTR: #00-0158

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555

Dresden Nuclear Power Station, Unit 2
Facility Operating License No. DPR-19
NRC Docket No. 50-237

Subject: Request for Scheduler Exemption
10 CFR 50.55a(g)(6)(ii)(B)
Expedited Examination of Containment

- Reference: (1) Letter from R.M. Krich (ComEd) to U.S. NRC, "Request for Inservice Inspection Program Relief Regarding Containment Inspections by Approved Alternate Means," dated May 8, 2000
- (2) Letter from A.J. Mendiola (U.S. NRC) to O.D. Kingsley (ComEd), "Byron, Dresden and LaSalle – Evaluation of Relief Requests: Use of 1998 Edition of Subsections IWE and IWL of the ASME Code for Containment Inspection," dated September 18, 2000

In accordance with 10 CFR 50.12, "Specific exemptions," Commonwealth Edison (ComEd) Company requests a scheduler exemption for Dresden Nuclear Power Station (DNPS), Unit 2 from implementation of inservice examinations of the containment by September 9, 2001, as required by 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(6)(ii)(B), "Expedited examination of containment." This scheduler exemption is requested to extend the implementation date by 90 days to allow completion of first period examinations during the next Unit 2 refueling outage, D2R17, currently scheduled to begin in October 2001.

In Reference 1, relief requests were requested and subsequently approved by the NRC, in Reference 2, to implement the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Boiler and Pressure Vessel (B&PV) Code XI, "Rules for Inservice Inspection of Nuclear Plant Components," Subsection IWE, "Requirements for Class MC and Metallic Liners of Class CC Components of Light-Water Cooled Plants," 1998 Edition in lieu of the 1992 Edition, 1992 Addenda.

A1047

This extension is needed in order to perform containment examinations specified for the first period of the first inspection interval in accordance with the 1998 Edition during the next Unit 2 refueling outage, D2R17. The last opportunity to complete the first period containment examinations was during the last refueling outage, completed on October 27, 1999, which was prior to ComEd submittal of request for relief and subsequent approval by the NRC.

Areas accessible for inspection during normal operation will be completed by September 9, 2001. However, the next available opportunity to perform all the remaining containment examinations is the next Unit 2 refueling outage, which is scheduled to begin on October 20, 2001. If a separate outage were required to perform containment inspections in accordance with the current inspection implementation date, DNPS would be subject to undue hardships or other costs that result from lost generation. Therefore, an extension of the September 9, 2001 implementation date is requested. The exemption requests a maximum extension of 90 days, to allow for any unforeseen minor outage schedule changes. Accordingly, we believe that this request meets the requirements of 10CFR50.12(a), subparagraphs (2)(iii) and (2)(v).

It is requested that the proposed exemption be approved no later than June 1, 2001.

Attachment 1 provides justification for the exemption in accordance with the guidelines established in 10 CFR 50.12(a).

Should you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact Mr. D. F. Ambler at (815) 942-2920, extension 3800.

Respectfully,



Preston Swafford
Site Vice President
Dresden Nuclear Power Station

Attachment: Justification for Scheduling Exemption

cc: Regional Administrator – NRC Region III
NRC Senior Resident Inspector - Dresden Nuclear Power Station
Office of Nuclear Facility Safety - Illinois Department Nuclear Station

ATTACHMENT

DRESDEN NUCLEAR POWER STATION UNIT 2

JUSTIFICATION FOR SCHEDULAR EXEMPTION

EXEMPTION

Commonwealth Edison (ComEd) Company requests a schedular exemption for Dresden Nuclear Power Station (DNPS), Unit 2, from implementation of inservice examinations of the containment by September 9, 2001, as required by 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(6)(ii)(B), "Expedited examination of containment." This schedular exemption requests a maximum 90 day extension for performance of first period examinations prior to completion of the next Unit 2 refueling outage, currently scheduled to begin in October 2001.

DISCUSSION:

In Reference 1, Relief Request MCR-02 was requested and subsequently approved by the NRC in Reference 2 to implement ASME B&PV Code 1998 Edition during the first inspection interval for DNPS Unit 2. Due to differences in inspection requirements between the two editions, inspections performed during the first inspection period in accordance with the ASME B&PV, Section XI 1992 Edition with the 1992 Addenda do not directly correlate to the 1998 Edition inspection requirements. This extension is needed in order to perform containment examinations specified for the first period of the first inspection interval in accordance with the 1998 Edition prior to completion of the next Unit 2 refueling outage, D2R17. The last opportunity to complete the first period containment examinations was during the last refueling outage, D2R16, completed on October 27, 1999, which was prior to ComEd submittal of request for relief and subsequent approval by the NRC. First period containment inspections required by the 1992 Edition with 1992 Addenda were not completed during the last refueling outage, D2R16.

The next available opportunity to perform containment examinations is the Unit 2 refueling outage, D2R17. Therefore, an extension from the September 9, 2001 implementation date to December 8, 2001 is required for completion of first period containment inspections. The exemption requests a maximum extension of 90 days. The additional time provides for any unforeseen minor schedule changes to the Unit 2 refueling outage schedule. If a separate outage were required to perform containment inspections, ComEd would be subject to undue hardships or other costs that result from lost generation. Accordingly, we believe that this request meets the requirements of 10CFR50.12(a), subparagraphs (2)(iii) and (2)(v).

ATTACHMENT

DRESDEN NUCLEAR POWER STATION UNIT 2

JUSTIFICATION FOR SCHEDULAR EXEMPTION

BASIS FOR RELIEF

As discussed in the following sections, the requested schedular exemption meets the necessary criteria of 10 CFR 50.12, "Specific exemptions."

A. Criteria for granting exemptions are met in accordance with 10 CFR Part 50.12(a)(1):

1. The requested exemptions and the activities, which would be allowed thereunder, are authorized by law

If the criteria established in 10 CFR 50.12(a) are satisfied, as they are in this case, and if no other prohibition of law exists to preclude the activities which would be authorized by requested exemption, and there are no such prohibition, the Commission is authorized by law to grant this exemption request.¹

2. The requested exemption will not present undue risk to the public

The purpose of performing containment inspections is to ensure the structural integrity of containment. The requested exemption is consistent with this intent in that it only requests a schedular exemption of short duration.

Previous Unit 2 containment inspections have not identified any areas of containment degradation that impact the structural integrity of containment. A general visual examination of accessible surface areas was performed during refueling outage D2R16, which was completed in October 1999. The general visual examination was performed in accordance with the ASME B&PV Code Section XI 1992 Edition with 1992 Addenda and included accessible surface areas of the containment structure and containment penetrations. The requested 90 day extension is a relatively short duration that would not permit a significant increase in any degradation that has developed since the previous general visual examination performed during D2R16. Therefore, this schedular exemption of 90 days will not present an undue risk to the public health and safety.

3. The requested exemption will not endanger the common defense and security

The common defense and security are not in any way compromised by this exemption.

¹ See U.S. vs. Allegheny-Ludlum Steel Corp., 406 U.S. 742, 755 (1972).

ATTACHMENT

DRESDEN NUCLEAR POWER STATION UNIT 2

JUSTIFICATION FOR SCHEDULAR EXEMPTION

B. At least one of the special circumstances is present in accordance with 10 CFR 50.12(a)(2)

1. The requested exemption will avoid undue hardship or costs

The requested schedular extension is required to prevent a forced shutdown of DNPS Unit 2. Preparations for a refueling outage are proceeding based on a scheduled shutdown in October 2001. An earlier required shutdown would present undue hardship and costs due to lost generation and increased radiological exposure. Because the requested exemption does not jeopardize the health and safety of the public, as previously discussed, its approval is warranted.

2. The requested exemption will only provide temporary relief from the applicable regulation

The requested exemption is only needed for a maximum of 90 days, to the start of refueling outage D2R17.

APPLICABLE TIME PERIOD

Schedular relief is requested for the first period of the first ten-year interval of the Containment Inservice Inspection (ISI) Program for DNPS, Unit 2, to be extended to December 8, 2001.