

August 8, 2001

Mr. Oliver D. Kingsley, President
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Exelon Generation Company, LLC
Executive Towers West III
1400 Opus Place, Suite 500
Downers Grove, IL 60515

SUBJECT: DRESDEN NUCLEAR POWER STATION, UNITS 2 AND 3 - COMPLETION OF LICENSING ACTIVITY FOR NRC BULLETIN 96-03, "POTENTIAL PLUGGING OF EMERGENCY CORE COOLING SUCTION STRAINERS BY DEBRIS IN BOILING-WATER REACTORS," DATED MAY 6, 1996 (TAC NOS. M96142 AND M96143)

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 (ECCSs) 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: (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 be used, the schedule for implementation, and proposed technical specifications, if appropriate.
2. A report confirming completion and summarizing actions taken.

In response to BL 96-03, you provided letters dated October 31, 1996, February 26 and June 16, 1997, May 16, October 19, and December 18, 1998, March 29 and November 24, 1999, and November 1, 2000, for Dresden Nuclear Power Station, Units 2 and 3 (Dresden). You stated that you planned to install large-capacity passive strainers which would be designed using the guidance in the Boiling Water Reactor Owners Group Utility Resolution Guidance (URG). The NRC staff reviewed the URG (NEDO-326896, Rev. 0) and issued a safety evaluation (SE) on August 20, 1998. By letter dated April 27, 2001, you informed the NRC staff that you had completed all actions requested by the BL. These actions included installing large-capacity passive strainers (BL 96-03, Option 1). The NRC 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. Because the staff considers your actions responsive to the concerns raised in BL 96-03, 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.

On March 29-31, 1999, the staff conducted an audit of your resolution for BL 96-03 for Dresden. The purpose of the audit was to verify the implementation of BL 96-03. Specifically, the staff:

- 1) assessed the adequacy of your resolution, and
- 2) evaluated the need for additional review on a generic basis of licensee resolutions through the NRC inspection program.

On basis of the staff's review of the strainer documentation onsite at Dresden and confirmatory calculations, the staff concluded that:

- 1) You have adequately designed your ECCS strainers to withstand the high debris loads anticipated during a LOCA.
- 2) You have implemented an appropriate inspection program to ensure the operability of the ECCS (strainer and suppression pool cleanliness).
- 3) You have implemented a suppression pool cleanliness program and foreign material control procedures to limit the potential for clogging the ECCS by foreign material.
- 4) The Dresden strainer structural design is robust, and the strainer hydrodynamic loads were calculated using conservative assumptions.

As noted in the staff's audit report, however, the staff identified some site-specific concerns that should be resolved through your corrective action program. These concerns were discussed with your staff at the audit exit meeting and in subsequent telephone conversations. If you determine that you are unable to resolve these concerns through your corrective action program, please contact me. A copy of the draft audit report was provided to you by my letter dated July 27, 2000, for the purpose of identifying any proprietary information. By letter from P. Swafford to the NRC dated September 7, 2000, you verified that there was no proprietary information in the audit report. A copy of the staff's final audit report will be provided to you by separate correspondence.

Mr. O. Kingsley

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If you have any questions regarding this issue, please contact me at (301) 415-2863.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Lawrence W. Rossbach, Project Manager, Section 2
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Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-237 and 50-249

cc: See next page

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Units 2 and 3

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Dresden Nuclear Power Station
Units 2 and 3

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