

August 30, 2001

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

SUBJECT: DRESDEN NUCLEAR POWER STATION, UNIT 2 - REQUEST FOR
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, "REQUEST FOR TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION
CHANGES FOR MINIMUM CRITICAL POWER RATIO SAFETY LIMIT"
(TAC NO. MB2126)

Dear Mr. Kingsley:

On June 6, 2001, Exelon Generation Company submitted a proposed license amendment request that would revise the Technical Specifications of the Dresden Nuclear Power Station, Unit 2. The proposed changes include the minimum critical power ratio safety limit for General Electric (GE)14 fuel under two-loop and single-loop operations.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has reviewed your request and concludes that it does not provide technical information in sufficient detail to enable the staff to make an independent assessment regarding the acceptability of the proposal in terms of regulatory requirements and the protection of public health and safety. The NRC staff finds that the additional information identified in the enclosure is needed to complete the review of the proposed license amendment.

Draft requests were discussed with Bob Rybak of your staff on August 22, 2001. The requests in the enclosure to this letter are the same as in the draft. A mutually agreeable target date of September 14, 2001, for your response was established.

If circumstances result in the need to revise the target date, please contact me at (301) 415-2863, at the earliest opportunity.

Sincerely,

/RA/

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

Docket No. 50-237

Enclosure: Request for Additional Information

cc w/encl: See next page

O. Kingsley
Exelon Generation Company, LLC

Dresden Nuclear Power Station
Units 2 and 3

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Dresden Nuclear Power Station
Units 2 and 3

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REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR
DRESDEN NUCLEAR POWER STATION UNIT 2
TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION CHANGE REQUEST FOR THE MINIMUM CRITICAL POWER
RATIO SAFETY LIMIT

1. Provide the fuel types and numbers of assemblies used in Dresden Cycle 17 and Cycle 18 operation and identify if they are fresh or irradiated fuel (once or twice burned, etc.). Also, describe the impact on the Safety Limit for the Minimum Critical Power Ratio (SLMCPR) calculation based on the fuel loading patterns for Cycle 17 and Cycle 18 mixed core.
2. Please identify the major contributor to the large reduction of the SLMCPR value (i.e., about 0.05). Clarify that the ATRIUM-9B is not dominant in Cycle 18 operation and justify that the proposed straight SLMCPR values instead of the cycle exposure dependent SLMCPR values for two recirculation loop and single loop operation bound the Cycle 18 operation. Identify which total uncertainty in the GEXL96 correlation predictions for ATRIUM-9B fuel is used in the SLMCPR calculation.
3. Describe the POWERPLEX bundle power distribution uncertainty in relation to the uncertainty values specified in Table 1 and Table 2 of Attachment F and explain the meaning of "Specific" for power distribution uncertainty in Table 1. Also, describe the difference between the uncertainty values obtained from NEDC-32601P-A and from Dresden-2 Specific, respectively, and their impact on the Safety Limit MCPR calculation.

ENCLOSURE