

December 6, 1995

Mr. D. L. Farrar
Manager, Nuclear Regulatory Services
Commonwealth Edison Company
Executive Towers West III
1400 Opus Place, Suite 500
Downers Grove, IL 60515

SUBJECT: CORRECTION TO AMENDMENTS - BYRON AND BRAIDWOOD STATIONS (TAC NOS. M86475, M86476, M86477 AND M86478)

Dear Mr. Farrar:

By letter dated November 2, 1995, the NRC issued Amendment Nos. 76 and 76 to Facility Operating License Nos. NPF-37 and NPF-66 for the Byron Station, Unit Nos. 1 and 2, respectively, and Amendment Nos. 68 and 68 to Facility Operating License Nos. NPF-72 and NPF-77 for the Braidwood Station, Unit Nos. 1 and 2, respectively. The amendments were in response to your application to change technical specification 3/4.6.1.7, Containment Purge Ventilation System, dated May 13, 1993, as supplemented by your letters of August 11 and September 20, 1995.

Upon issuance, when inserting the amendment numbers for Braidwood, Units 1 and 2, on the first page of the Safety Evaluation, the numbers were inadvertently transposed from 68 to 86. Also, we have revised several words in the first and second paragraphs on the first and second pages of the Safety Evaluation, respectively, to clarify that the 8-inch purge and supply valves may be simultaneously opened for other reasons in addition to containment pressure control. We have enclosed the corrected pages with this letter. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused you.

Sincerely,

Original Signed R...

Ramin R. Assa, Project Manager
Project Directorate III-2
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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Docket Nos. STN 50-456, STN 50-457

Enclosure: Corrected pages

cc w/encl: See next page

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D. L. Farrar
Commonwealth Edison Company

cc:

Mr. William P. Poirier, Director
Westinghouse Electric Corporation
Energy Systems Business Unit
Post Office Box 355, Bay 236 West
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15230

Joseph Gallo
Gallo & Ross
1250 Eye St., N.W.
Suite 302
Washington, DC 20005

Michael I. Miller, Esquire
Sidley and Austin
One First National Plaza
Chicago, Illinois 60603

Howard A. Learner
Environmental Law and Policy
Center of the Midwest
203 North LaSalle Street
Suite 1390
Chicago, Illinois 60601

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Byron Resident Inspectors Office
4448 North German Church Road
Byron, Illinois 61010-9750

Regional Administrator, Region III
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
801 Warrenville Road
Lisle, Illinois 60532-4351

Ms. Lorraine Creek
Rt. 1, Box 182
Manteno, Illinois 60950

Chairman, Ogle County Board
Post Office Box 357
Oregon, Illinois 61061

Mrs. Phillip B. Johnson
1907 Stratford Lane
Rockford, Illinois 61107

Byron/Braidwood Power Stations

George L. Edgar
Morgan, Lewis and Bochius
1800 M Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20036

Attorney General
500 South Second Street
Springfield, Illinois 62701

EIS Review Coordinator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, Illinois 60604-3590

Illinois Department of
Nuclear Safety
Office of Nuclear Facility Safety
1035 Outer Park Drive
Springfield, Illinois 62704

Commonwealth Edison Company
Byron Station Manager
4450 North German Church Road
Byron, Illinois 61010

Kenneth Graesser, Site Vice President
Byron Station
Commonwealth Edison Station
4450 N. German Church Road
Byron, Illinois 61010

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Braidwood Resident Inspectors Office
Rural Route #1, Box 79
Braceville, Illinois 60407

Mr. Ron Stephens
Illinois Emergency Services
and Disaster Agency
110 East Adams Street
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Chairman
Will County Board of Supervisors
Will County Board Courthouse
Joliet, Illinois 60434

Commonwealth Edison Company
Braidwood Station Manager
Rt. 1, Box 84
Braceville, Illinois 60407

Ms. Bridget Little Rorem
Appleseed Coordinator
117 North Linden Street
Essex, Illinois 60935

Document Control Desk-Licensing
Commonwealth Edison Company
1400 Opus Place, Suite 400
Downers Grove, Illinois 60515



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 76 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-37,
AMENDMENT NO. 76 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-66,
AMENDMENT NO. 68 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-72,
AND AMENDMENT NO. 68 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-77
COMMONWEALTH EDISON COMPANY
BYRON STATION, UNIT NOS. 1 AND 2
BRAIDWOOD STATION, UNIT NOS. 1 AND 2
DOCKET NOS. STN 50-454, STN 50-455, STN 50-456 AND STN 50-457

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By letter dated May 13, 1993, as supplemented by letters dated August 11 and September 20, 1995, Commonwealth Edison Company (ComEd, the licensee) submitted proposed changes to the Byron and Braidwood Stations' Technical Specifications (TS) for the containment purge ventilation system to allow the simultaneous opening of the 8-inch miniflow purge supply and exhaust valves (mini-purge), under certain conditions, to allow the mini-purge system to be used for other reasons in addition to containment pressure control. These reasons include the reduction of airborne radioactivity in the containment atmosphere and improved respirable air quality of the containment atmosphere prior to personnel entry into the containment. The supplemental letters provided slightly revised wording to the TSs and Bases, as suggested by the NRC staff, on control over when the valves are opened; similar to the wording in the standard improved TSs for Westinghouse plants. The revised wording does not change the objective of the initial application, the reasons for opening the valves or the time the valves may be open and does not change the staff's initial proposed no significant hazards consideration determination.

2.0 EVALUATION

The licensee has proposed to revise TS 3.6.1.7 to delete the limitation of no more than 1,000 hours of mini-purge operation in a calendar year. The prohibition against the concurrent opening of the mini-purge supply and exhaust lines is also proposed to be deleted. The revised TS will specify that "The 8-inch containment purge supply and exhaust isolation valves(s) shall be closed, except when the associated penetration(s) is(are) permitted to be open for PURGING or VENTING operations under administrative control."

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The licensee has also proposed to revise TS 4.6.1.7.2 to replace the requirement to determine the number of hours that the mini-purge valves have been open during the calendar year with a requirement to verify the valve positions at least once per 31 days. This TS will ensure that the mini-purge supply and exhaust valves are in the correct position.

The licensee has proposed these TS changes to permit the opening of the mini-purge supply and exhaust lines concurrently, under certain conditions, to allow the mini-purge system to be effectively used for other reasons in addition to containment pressure control. Concurrent opening of the mini-purge supply and exhaust lines will equalize the mass addition and removal from the containment atmosphere. This will allow containment pressure to remain unchanged during mini-purge system operation. Under these conditions, the mini-purge system can be used effectively for other reasons. These other reasons include reduction of airborne activity, respirable air quality considerations for personnel entry, surveillance tests that require the valve(s) to be open, and other safety-related purposes. For the mini-purge system to be effective in performing these other tasks, the supply and exhaust lines must be open concurrently.

The TS Bases were revised within the frame work of the "Marginal to Safety" program and reflect the philosophy employed in the new standard TSs. Requirements are less prescriptive by providing for administrative control of the valves by the licensee. While the licensee has more flexibility in determining the circumstances under which the valves may be opened, an analysis must be completed to assess the safety significance of any planned valve openings. Discussions of the proposed revised TS Bases were held with the licensee and agreement with the licensee was reached on the necessity for the proposed changes. By letter dated September 20, 1995, the licensee formally submitted the TS Bases changes.

The present Byron and Braidwood TS requirements are the same as those in Section 3.6.1.8 of the Westinghouse standard TSs regarding containment ventilation. The proposed TSs and Bases will be similar to surveillance requirement 3.6.3.2 on containment isolation valves in the Westinghouse Improved TSs (NUREG-1431). The present TSs are not conducive to maintaining containment pressure within a narrow range. Currently, every operation of the mini-purge system affects containment pressure due to the restrictions imposed by Specifications 3/4.6.1.7. With only one mini-purge supply or exhaust line open at one time, the mass addition or removal from the containment atmosphere causes a corresponding increase or decrease in the containment pressure. Since containment pressure must be maintained within a narrow range prescribed by Specifications 3/4.6.1.4, these restrictions effectively limit the use of the mini-purge system to containment pressure control.

As stated previously, the licensee is proposing to revise Limiting Condition for Operation (LCO) 3.6.1.7b which now states that the 8-inch containment purge supply and exhaust isolation valve(s) may be open for up to 1,000 hours during a calendar year, provided no more than one line is open at one time.