

June 3, 1996

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: PUBLIC NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR AMENDMENT TO OPERATING LICENSE
FOR DRESDEN STATION, UNIT 3 (TAC NO. M95109)

Dear Mr. Farrar:

The enclosed public announcement was forwarded to the Morris Daily Herald and the Joliet Herald News for publication. This announcement relates to your application dated May 22, 1996, for an amendment to the Facility Operating License for Dresden Station, Unit 3. Although your application had requested treatment under the emergency provisions of 10 CFR 50.91(a)(5), the staff determined that the request would be treated as an exigent request in accordance with 10 CFR 50.91(a)(6)(i)(B).

A separate notice will be published later in the Federal Register concerning the license amendment.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

John F. Stang, Senior Project Manager
Project Directorate III-2
Division of Reactor Projects - III/IV
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-249

Enclosure: Public Announcement

cc w/enc1: see next page

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**D. L. Farrar
Commonwealth Edison Company**

**Dresden Nuclear Power Station
Unit No. 3**

cc:

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PUBLIC NOTICE
NRC STAFF PROPOSES TO AMEND OPERATING LICENSE FOR
DRESDEN NUCLEAR POWER STATION, UNIT 3

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has received an application dated May 22, 1996, from Commonwealth Edison Company (ComEd, the licensee) for an amendment to Facility Operating License No. DRP-25 for Dresden, Unit 3, located in Grundy County, Illinois.

If approved, the amendment would authorize operation of Dresden, Unit 3, with the structural steel members in the Low Pressure Coolant Injection (LPCI) corner rooms outside the Updated Final Safety Analysis Report (UFSAR) design parameters, but capable of performing their intended safety function until the next schedule refueling outage (September 1996). Following a reactor scram on May 15, 1996, the licensee performed a Safety Evaluation (SE) in accordance with the requirements of Section 50.59 of Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR 50.59), and determined that the current configuration of the corner room structural steel members had not reduced the margin of safety significantly with respect to the stress allowables for the structural steel if subjected to a Safe Shutdown Earthquake (SSE). However, it was determined that an unreviewed safety question existed because stress allowables for the structural steel subjected to an Operating Basis Earthquake (OBE) were found to be outside the UFSAR requirements.

The NRC has determined that the licensee used its best efforts to make a timely application for the proposed changes and that exigent circumstances do exist and were not the result of any intentional delay on the part of the licensee. The exigent circumstances resulted from an automatic scram of Dresden, Unit 3, on May 15, 1996. The unit can not restart until the proposed amendment has been approved by the NRC.

ENCLOSURE

Following an initial review of this application against the standards in 10 CFR 50.92, the NRC staff has made a proposed (preliminary) determination that the amendment request involves no significant hazards consideration. According to 10 CFR 50.92(c), this means that the proposed amendment would not involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated, would not create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated, or involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety. The analysis of the no significant hazards consideration is presented below:

1. The proposed change does not involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated.

The current configuration of the corner room standard steel members will not increase the probability or consequences of the design basis seismic event. The structural steel in the corners have adequate structural margin to withstand a safe shutdown earthquake. All equipment attached to the structural steel and equipment in the LPCI corner rooms will remain functional and be able to perform their intended function following a design basis seismic event. Therefore, the current configuration of the corner room structural steel being outside the UFSAR design parameters will not significantly increase the probability or consequences of the UFSAR design basis seismic event.

2. The proposed change does not create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated.

The proposed license amendment change will not create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated.

The corner room structural steel will perform its intended safety function following all UFSAR design basis seismic events. Because the structural steel members will remain intact following a seismic event, all safe shutdown and safety related equipment in the LPCI corner rooms will be able to perform their intended safety function following a design basis UFSAR seismic event.

3. The proposed change does not involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety.

The basis for seismic design of the corner room structural steel framing and seismic analysis of piping is included in UFSAR Section 3.7, 3.8.4, and 3.9. Using the seismic methodology and acceptance criteria defined in those sections, the stress levels in the structural steel exceed those permitted in the UFSAR for an OBE which would constitute an unreviewed safety question by the requirements of 10 CFR 50.59. However, the margin of safety against failure is determined by the loading due to the design basis accident safe shutdown earthquake not the OBE. The corner room structural steel members will still remain functional following a design basis UFSAR seismic event. This will ensure that all safe shutdown and safety related equipment in the LPCI corner rooms will remain functional. The plant will operate in this condition for only a short period of time, approximately 5 months, until the next scheduled refueling outage at which time the licensee intends to modify the corner structural steel and restore all original UFSAR design margins.

In the interim, the licensee will institute compensatory measures on Dresden Unit 3 to treat the UFSAR OBE as a limiting condition of operation. Should vibratory ground motion exceed the current OBE ground motion the

licensee will shutdown the unit and not restart the unit until it receives approval from the NRC.

The existing structural capability of the corner structural steel does not involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety.

If the proposed determination that the requested license amendment involves no significant hazards consideration becomes final, the NRC will issue the amendment without first offering an opportunity for a public hearing. An opportunity for a hearing will be published in the Federal Register at a later date and any hearing request will not delay the effective date of the amendment.

If the NRC decides in its final determination that the amendment does involve a significant hazards consideration, a notice of opportunity for a prior hearing will be published in the Federal Register and, if a hearing is granted, it will be held before the amendment is issued.

Comments on the proposed determination of no significant hazards consideration may be telephoned to Robert Capra, Director, Project Directorate III-2, by collect call to 1-301-415-1395. Written comments may be submitted by mail to the Chief, Rules Review and Directives Branch, Division of Freedom of Information and Publications Services, Office of Administration, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001. Written comments may also be delivered to Room 6D22, Two White Flint North, 11545 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Federal workdays. Copies of written comments received may be examined at the NRC Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC. All comments

received by 4:15 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time on May 31, 1996, will be considered in reaching a final determination.

A copy of the application may be examined at the NRC's Local Public Document Room located in the Morris Area Public Library District, 604 Liberty Street, Morris, Illinois 60450, and at the Commission's Public Document Room.