

AUG 13 1984

Docket No.: 50-374

Mr. Dennis L. Farrar
Director of Nuclear Licensing
Commonwealth Edison Company
P.O. Box 767
Chicago, Illinois 60690

Dear Mr. Farrar:

Subject: Paid Public Notice regarding application dated August 2, 1982

Enclosed is a copy of a paid public notice relating to application dated August 2, 1984 as for an amendment to the operating license for La Salle County Station, Unit 2.

Because of exigent circumstances, time does not allow for normal publication in the Federal Register. The comment period for this notice expires August 27, 1984.

Sincerely,

A. Schwencer, Chief
Licensing Branch No. 2
Division of Licensing

Enclosure Public Notice

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NRC STAFF PROPOSES TO AMEND OPERATING LICENSE AT
LA SALLE COUNTY STATION, UNIT 2

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has received an application dated August 2, 1984, from Commonwealth Edison Company (licensee) for an exigent amendment to the operating license for La Salle County Station, Unit 2 located in La Salle County, Illinois.

If approved, the amendment would vacate Amendment No. 3 and reinstate License Condition 2.C.(7) of License NPF-18 requiring installation of instrumentation that would automatically shut down the reactor (in the startup and refueling modes only) in the event of low control rod drive pump discharge pressure. This condition was to have been satisfied prior to completion of the startup test program.

By letter dated May 24, 1984 Commonwealth Edison Company (licensee) requested a license amendment which was issued as Amendment No. 3 effective July 24, 1984, and was intended to both satisfy License Condition 2.C.(7) and provide the necessary Technical Specifications to assure proper operation of this new scram capability.

By letter dated August 2, 1984, the licensee requested an exigent amendment to vacate Amendment No. 3 to the license, citing the fact that, on July 30, 1984, while testing the modification, spurious scrams occurred, indicating problems with the existing trip setpoints. The licensee's initial investigation suggest that the probable cause is that the conservative setpoints may not have sufficient margin against the current discharge pressure of control rod drive (CRD) pumps. Additional analysis is necessary to determine setpoints which would both avoid unnecessary scrams and fulfill the intended safety function of this modification. Accordingly, the licensee

has requested that the changes to the license and the Technical Specifications authorized by Amendment No. 3 to NPF-18 not be made effective until completion of the startup test program, as was originally provided for in License Condition 2.C.(7).

Prior to issuance of License Amendment No. 3, License Condition 2.C.(7) allowed the licensee until completion of the startup test program in order to install this additional scram capability. The startup test program is still underway and is expected to be completed in October 1984. Therefore, vacating License Amendment No. 3, simply reinstates that license condition and does not constitute a significant hazards consideration.

Since this plant modification has caused spurious reactor trips, we agree that it is prudent not to require the modification to be operable until this problem is resolved and appropriate corrective action is taken. In the interim, to avoid spurious scrams, while resolving the problem, the licensee has stated in a July 31, 1984 letter that it intends to simply jumper out the low pressure scram logic, thus isolating this installed modification from the plants reactor protection system. We find this acceptable. The NRC will inspect these jumpers to assure that they have been properly installed.

The Commission has determined that a timely application for the proposed change was made and that exigent circumstances do exist and were not the result of any fault of the licensee. The exigent circumstances result from the fact that the time is needed to confirm the cause of the problem and to establish an adequate basis for any proposed changes in the scram setpoint. By requesting an exigent review, the licensee is avoiding a possible emergency amendment request in the event that Unit 2 were to incur a shutdown in

the immediate future and this new scram capability would not allow the unit to restart due to additional spurious scrams.

Following an initial review of this application, the NRC staff has made a proposed (preliminary) determination that the requested amendment involves no significant hazards consideration. Under NRC regulations, this means that the proposed amendment does not involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident, would not create the possibility of a new or different kind of an accident, or involve a significant reduction in a safety margin.

The Commission has determined that due to exigent circumstances there is not sufficient time to publish notice in the Federal Register for public comment before issuance of the proposed action.

If the proposed determination that the requested license amendment involves no significant hazards consideration becomes final, the staff 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 staff 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 Albert Schwencer, Chief of Licensing Branch No. 2, by collect call to 301-492-7435, or submitted in writing to the Secretary of the Commission, U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission,

Washington, D.C. 20555, Attn: Docketing and Service Branch. All comments received by August 27, 1984 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 at the Public Library of Illinois Valley Community College, Rural Route No. 1, Ogelsby, Illinois 61448, and at the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.