June 12, 1997

Mr. K. Graesser
Site Vice President
Byron Nuclear Power Station
Commonwealth Edison Company
4450 North German Church Road
Byron, IL 61010

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT 50-454/97004(DRS); 50-455/97004(DRS) AND NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Dear Mr. Graesser:

On April 15, 1997, the NRC completed an inspection of your implementation of 10 CFR 50.65, "Requirements for Monitoring the Effectiveness of Maintenance at Nuclear Power Plants" (the maintenance rule) at the Byron 1 & 2 reactor facilities. The enclosed report presents the results of that inspection.

Your program for implementing the requirements of the maintenance rule followed the guidance provided in NUMARC 93-01, "Industry Guideline for Monitoring the Effectiveness of Maintenance at Nuclear Power Plants," dated May 1993, which was endorsed in Regulatory Guide 1.160, "Monitoring the Effectiveness of Maintenance at Nuclear Power Plants," dated January 1995. Your program generally met the requirements of the maintenance rule; however, this was only recently accomplished as a result of changes implemented from the Site Quality Verification (SQV) audit findings. The SQV audit provided significant insights into your maintenance rule program and was considered a program strength.

The inspection team identified one violation which involved the failure to demonstrate that the performance or condition of structures, systems, and components (SSCs) within the scope of 10 CFR 50.65 were being effectively controlled through the performance of appropriate preventive maintenance. Although only two system functions were identified in the first violation example, your response should address the actions taken for all system functions where the reliability numbers assumed in your probabilistic risk assessment were less than the established performance criteria. In addition, an inspection follow-up item was identified regarding your risk determination for several ventilation systems. Please provide your response to this inspection follow-up item with your response to the violation.

The violation is cited in the enclosed Notice of Violation (Notice), and the circumstances surrounding the violation are described in the enclosed report. Please note that you are required to respond to this letter and should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice when preparing your response. The NRC will use your response, in part, to determine whether further enforcement action is necessary to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements.

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PDR ADOCK 05000454
Q PDR

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosures will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

Sincerely,

/s/ J. A. Grobe

John A. Grobe, Acting Director
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket Nos. 50-454; 50-455
License Nos. NPF-37; NPF-66

Enclosures: 1. Notice of Violation
2. Inspection Report 50-454/455/97004(DRS)

cc w/encls: T. J. Maiman, Senior Vice President,
Nuclear Operations Division
D. A. Sager, Vice President,
Generation Support
H. W. Keiser, Chief Nuclear
Operating Officer
K. Kofron, Station Manager
D. Brindle, Regulatory Assurance
Supervisor
I. Johnson, Acting Nuclear
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Richard Hubbard
Nathan Schloss, Economist
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SEE ATTACHED CONCURRENCES

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Sincerely,

John A. Grobe, Acting Director
Division of Reactor Safety

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