

FEDERAL POWER COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20426

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Regulatory Docket File

50-237

50-249

AUG 23 1973

Mr. Daniel R. Muller  
Assistant Director for  
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Directorate of Licensing  
U. S. Atomic Energy Commission  
Washington, D. C. 20545

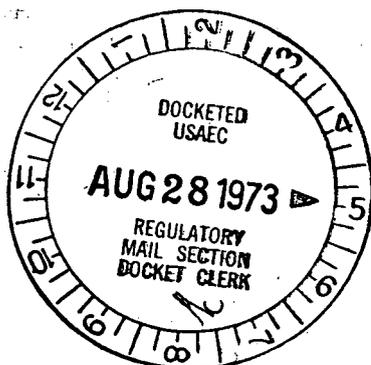


Dear Mr. Muller:

This is in response to your letter dated June 26, 1973, requesting comment on the AEC Draft Environmental Statement related to the issuance of a full term operating license to Commonwealth Edison Company, hereinafter referred to as the Applicant, for the Dresden Nuclear Power Station, Unit 2 (Docket No. 50-237), and the continuation of the operating license for Unit 3 (Docket No. 50-249).

These comments by the Federal Power Commission's Bureau of Power staff are made in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and the April 23, 1971, Guidelines, of the Council on Environmental Quality, and are directed to the need for the facilities and related bulk power supply matters.

In preparation of these comments, the Bureau of Power staff has considered the AEC Draft Environmental Statement; the Applicant's Environmental Report; related reports made in accordance with the Commission's Statement of Policy on Reliability and Adequacy of Electric Service (Docket No. R-362); and the staff's analysis of these documents together with related information from other FPC reports. The staff generally bases its evaluation of the need for a specific bulk power facility upon long-term considerations as well as upon the load-supply situation for the peak load period immediately following the availability of the new facility. The useful lives of Units 2 and 3 are expected to be 30 years or more. During that period, the units will make a significant contribution to the reliability and adequacy of the electric power supply in the Applicant's service area.



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The Applicant is a member of the Mid-America Interpool Network (MAIN) which coordinates the planning and operation of bulk power generation and transmission facilities, for the electric systems of the regional area which includes the state of Illinois and portions of Wisconsin, Missouri and Upper Michigan. The Applicant is the largest utility in MAIN, and controlled approximately 43 percent of MAIN's dependable capacity as of December 31, 1972.

As projected, the Applicant would have in the summer of 1974 a net capacity of 16,309 megawatts (including 642 megawatts of non-firm purchases). The 1974 summer peak load is expected to be 13,470 megawatts (including 240 megawatts of firm sales). The resulting reserve would be 2,839 megawatts or 21.1 percent of peak load with Dresden Units 2 and 3. Without one of the two units, the reserve would be 2,030 megawatts or 15.1 percent. Without both units, the reserve would be 1,221 megawatts or 9.1 percent; this is below the Applicant's reserve criterion of 14 percent.

Gas turbines are unsuitable for meeting the Applicant's load growth since additional peaking generation is not considered to be an effective substitute for the base-load generation needed in the Applicant's system.

The discussion of transmission lines for Dresden Units 2 and 3 is presented adequately in the draft environmental statement.

The staff considers the continued operation of Dresden Units 2 and 3 essential to assist the Applicant in meeting its projected loads and to provide adequate reserve margins for reliability of electric service.

Very truly yours,

  
T. A. Phillips  
Chief, Bureau of Power