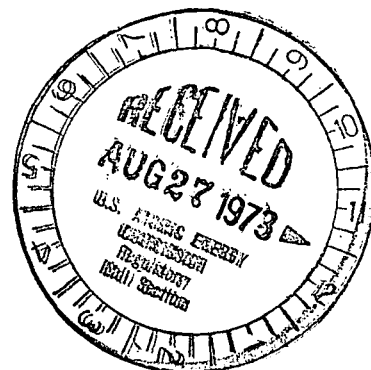




DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20250

50-237  
50-249



AUG 23 1973

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

Dear Mr. Muller:

We have had the draft environmental statement for the Dresden Nuclear Power Station, Units 2 and 3, Commonwealth Edison Company of Illinois, reviewed in the relevant agencies of the Department of Agriculture, and comments from Forest Service, Soil Conservation Service and Agricultural Research Service, all agencies of the Department, are enclosed.

Sincerely,

FRED H. TSCHIRLEY  
Acting Coordinator  
Environmental Quality Activities

Enclosures

6527

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

RE: DRESDEN NUCLEAR POWER STATION, UNITS 2 and 3,  
COMMONWEALTH EDISON COMPANY, ILLINOIS

We suggest that the Illinois Department of Conservation be contacted for comments, because they would know more about the effect of the project on Illinois' natural resources than the other Illinois departments or the U.S. agencies.

In general, the Forest Service has no objection to the operation of Dresden Units 2 and 3. Effects on vegetation are estimated to be much less than those of coal-fired or oil-fired plants.

The environmental effects of mining and concentrating the uranium ore are not given, and there is no statement on the effect on vegetation of burying radioactive waste at Sheffield, Illinois.

In applying herbicides along transmission lines (pp. 5-35/5-34), care should be taken to avoid excessive amounts over roots of trees adjacent to power lines.

No effect on vegetation is anticipated from ozone that is formed around conductors.

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE - USDA  
COMMENTS ON DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT PREPARED  
BY THE DIRECTORATE OF LICENSING UNITED STATES ATOMIC ENERGY  
COMMISSION FOR THE DRESDEN NUCLEAR POWER STATION  
UNITS 2 AND 3 OF THE COMMONWEALTH EDISON COMPANY

Page 4-3 -- Soil survey information is included in the statement and it is noted that the average corn yield from the area inundated by the cooling reservoir is approximately 90 bushel per acre. The statement should also indicate that yields from this land in future years would have been greater and that the economic loss would therefore increase.

Page 5-5 -- The surveillance program should include inspection of the vegetative cover in the vicinity of the embankment.

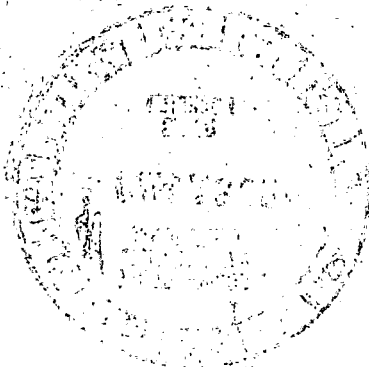
The Soil Conservation Service, through the Will County Soil and Water Conservation District, is willing to provide technical assistance in matters concerning soils, control of erosion and sedimentation, and establishment and maintenance of vegetation suitable for soil protection, wildlife habitat enhancement and beautification.

Dresden Nuclear Power Station, Units 2 and 3  
Commonwealth Edison Company, Illinois

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The Agricultural Research Service has reviewed this Draft Environmental Statement and finds no significant adverse effects of agricultural importance.

Since these plants are already in operation, some adverse environmental effects have been noted. It is our view that the need for power greatly overrides the minor nature of the environmental effects cited or projected.



Regulatory File Cy.

50-237

President Nuclear Power Station, Madison County, Illinois  
Commonwealth Edison Company, Illinois

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