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APRIL 17 1978

Docket No. 50-237

Commonwealth Edison Company
 ATTN: Mr. C. Reed
 Assistant Vice President
 P. O. Box 676
 Chicago, Illinois 60609

Gentlemen:

Enclosed for your information is a copy of a Notice of Granting an exemption from the Requirements of General Design Criterion 50, "Containment Design Basis", of Appendix A to 10 CFR Part 50 for the Dresden Unit No. 2 Plant which has been filed with the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Dennis Ziemann, Chief
 Operating Reactors Branch #2
 Division of Operating Reactors

Enclosure:
 Exemption

cc w/enclosure:
 See page 2



OFFICE >	ORB #2 <i>Pr...</i>	ORB #2 <i>Pr...</i>	ORB #2 for			
SURNAME >	HSmith:mjf	POConnor	DZiemann			
DATE >	4/14/78	4/14/78	4/17/78			

Commonwealth Edison Company

CC

Mr. John W. Rowe
Isham, Lincoln & Beale
Counselors at Law
One First National Plaza, 42nd Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60603

Mr. B. B. Stephenson
Plant Superintendent
Dresden Nuclear Power Station
Rural Route #1
Morris, Illinois 60450

Anthony Z. Roisman, Esquire
Natural Resources Defense Council
917 15th Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20005

Morris Public Library
604 Liberty Street
Morris, Illinois 60451

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONDOCKET NO. 50-237COMMONWEALTH EDISON COMPANYNOTICE OF GRANTING AN EXEMPTION FROM THE
REQUIREMENTS OF GENERAL DESIGN CRITERION 50,
"CONTAINMENT DESIGN BASIS", OF APPENDIX A
TO 10 CFR PART 50

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has granted an exemption from the requirements of General Design Criterion 50, "Containment Design Basis", of Appendix A to 10 CFR Part 50 to Commonwealth Edison Company (the Licensee). This exemption relates to the demonstrated safety margin of the Mark I containment system for Dresden Unit No. 2 for recently identified hydrodynamic suppression pool loads associated with a postulated design basis loss of coolant accident and provides for operation under the conditions specified in the NRC staff's "Mark I Containment Short Term Program Safety Evaluation Report" and under any resulting Technical Specification requirements. To this extent, this exemption encompasses any related requirements of 10 CFR Part 50, Section 50.55a(g), and General Design Criterion 1. This exemption is effective as of the date of its issuance.

The Commission has evaluated the demonstrated safety margin of the containment system for Dresden Unit No. 2 under present conditions and has concluded that sufficient margin exists to preclude undue risk to the health and safety of the public. This evaluation is documented in the staff's "Mark I Containment Short Term Program Safety Evaluation Report," NUREG-0408, December 1977.

This exemption is granted for an interim period of approximately two years while a more detailed review is conducted. At the conclusion of this review, the design safety margin of the containment system for Dresden Unit No. 2 will be restored to that which was originally intended at the time Dresden Unit No. 2 was licensed for operation. The basis of this exemption is set forth in the letter to the licensee granting the exemption, dated February 28, 1978.

The Commission has determined that the granting of this exemption will not result in any significant environmental impact and that pursuant to 10 CFR Section 51.5(d)(4) an environmental impact statement or negative declaration and environmental impact appraisal need not be prepared in connection with this action.

For further details with respect to this action, see (1) the Commission's letter to the licensee dated February 28, 1978, and (2) the Commission's "Mark I Containment Short Term Program Safety Evaluation Report," NUREG-0408, December 1977.

These items are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, N. W., Washington, D. C. and at the Morris Public Library, 604 Liberty Street, Morris, Illinois 60451. A copy of item (1) may be obtained upon request addressed to the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D. C. 20555, Attention: Director, Division of Operating Reactors. A copy of item (2) may be obtained upon request addressed to the National Technical Information Service, Springfield, Virginia 22161.

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland this 17th day of April 1978.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Richard D. Silver

Richard D. Silver, Acting Chief
Operating Reactors Branch #2
Division of Operating Reactors



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

April 17, 1978

Docket No. 50-237

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Assistant Vice President
P. O. Box 676
Chicago, Illinois 60609

Gentlemen:

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard O. Silber for".

Dennis Ziemann, Chief
Operating Reactors Branch #2
Division of Operating Reactors

Enclosure:
Exemption

cc w/enclosure:
See page 2

Commonwealth Edison Company

cc

Mr. John W. Rowe
Isham, Lincoln & Beale
Counselors at Law
One First National Plaza, 42nd Floor
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"CONTAINMENT DESIGN BASIS", OF APPENDIX A
TO 10 CFR PART 50

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Dated at Bethesda, Maryland this 17th day of April 1978.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Richard D. Silver

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Division of Operating Reactors