

November 8, 1991

Docket No. 50-249

Mr. Thomas J. Kovach
Nuclear Licensing Manager
Commonwealth Edison Company-Suite 300
OPUS West III
1400 OPUS Place
Downers Grove, Illinois 60515

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Dear Mr. Kovach:

SUBJECT: RELIEF REQUEST NUMBER CR-14 FOR DRESDEN, UNIT 3 (TAC NO. 81346)

In a letter dated August 23, 1991, you requested relief (Relief Request Number CR-14) from the ASME Code Section XI. This relief is related to the sample expansion requirements for fluorescent magnetic particle examination of the reactor vessel closure studs for one refueling cycle if crack indications are found.

The NRC has reviewed and evaluated your request, and the supporting information provided, and concluded that granting relief from Section XI of the ASME Code requirements, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(6)(i) and (a)(3)(ii), is authorized by law, will not endanger life or property or the common defense and security and is otherwise in the public interest giving due consideration to the burden upon the licensee that could result if the requirements were imposed on the facility. Compliance with the specified testing requirements would result in hardship or unusual difficulties without a compensating increase in the level of quality and safety. The staff has also determined that granting of this relief does not significantly reduce the assurance of the plant's structural integrity or safety. Relief is granted for one cycle provided that your fracture mechanics analysis results in a critical flaw size for the reactor vessel closure studs that is greater than the minimum size detectable by enhanced ultrasonic examinations. A copy of the staff's safety evaluation related to this relief is enclosed.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:

Richard J. Barrett, Director
Project Directorate III-2
Division of Reactor Projects - III/IV/V
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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PDR ADOCK 05000249
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Enclosure:
Safety Evaluation

cc w/enclosure:
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Set back concerns subject to acceptability of 9/91 analysis



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

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "R. Barrett", written over a horizontal line.

Richard J. Barrett, Director
Project Directorate III-2
Division of Reactor Projects - III/IV/V
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
Safety Evaluation

cc w/enclosure:
See next page

Mr. Thomas J. Kovach
Commonwealth Edison Company

Dresden Nuclear Power Station
Unit Nos. 2 and 3

cc:

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