

Docket file



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

September 10, 1993

Docket No. 50-237

Mr. D. L. Farrar
Manager, Nuclear Regulatory Services
Commonwealth Edison Company
Executive Towers West III, Suite 500
1400 OPUS Place
Downers Grove, Illinois 60515

Dear Mr. Farrar:

SUBJECT: SYSTEMATIC EVALUATION PROGRAM, TOPIC III-6, STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY OF
REACTOR PRESSURE VESSEL - DRESDEN NUCLEAR POWER STATION, UNIT 2
(TAC NO. M72906)

In 1977, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) initiated the Systematic Evaluation Program (SEP) to review the design of older operating nuclear reactors in order to reconfirm and document their safety.

Dresden, Unit 2, was reviewed under the SEP. NRC has documented the review of all applicable SEP items in the Integrated Plant Safety Assessment Report (IPSAR, NUREG-0823). All items, with the exception of one, were found acceptable. Topic III-6, "Seismic Design Consideration," lacked sufficient information to evaluate the structural integrity of the reactor vessel and internal supports for Dresden, Unit 2. By letters dated September 25, 1992, and June 23, 1993, the licensee provided additional information concerning the specific structural integrity of the Dresden, Unit 2, reactor vessel and internal supports. In addition to these letters, telephone communications and meetings have been held with the licensee to obtain additional information.

Due to the lack of original design basis information concerning this SEP topic, the licensee has not been able to provide the detailed information required by the staff to resolve this issue.

In SECY-92-223, the NRC staff recommended to the Commission a resolution of deviations from the SEP and requested the Commission to provide guidance. By memorandum from Samuel Chilk, Secretary, to James M. Taylor, Executive Director for Operations, "SECY-92-233 - Resolution of Deviations Identified During the Systematic Evaluation Program," dated September 18, 1992, guidance concerning the resolution of SEP items was provided. The memorandum recommended the close-out of the SEP. In addition, it was recommended the NRC staff continue the generic review of the SEP lessons learned and prioritize the issues in the Generic Safety Issue (GSI) program.

The Dresden, Unit 2, SEP Topic III-6 has been evaluated by the GSI program and it recommended that Topic III-6 be evaluated as part of the Individual Plant Examination For External Events (IPEEE).

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Mr. D. L. Farrar

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Generic Letter 88-20, Supplement 4, required Commonwealth Edison Company (CECo) to develop an IPEEE to search for severe accident vulnerabilities due to external events for all of its operating reactors. A seismic event is one of external events that will be addressed in the Dresden, Unit 2, IPEEE. CECo will review and evaluate the seismic capabilities of Dresden, Unit 2, to withstand earthquake effects well beyond the design basis and determine if severe accident vulnerabilities due to seismic events exist.

Therefore, the staff finds at this time that requesting additional information concerning SEP Topic III-6, Seismic Design Consideration, will not be useful until CECo has completed the IPEEE analyses concerning seismic events. We will require that CECo factor into the IPEEE analysis, the NRC staff concerns relating to SEP Topic III-6. Therefore, we consider our actions under TAC No. M72906 to be complete and final resolution of seismic design considerations will be completed in the NRC staff review of the Dresden, Unit 2, IPEEE.

If NRC concerns related to SEP Topic III-6 will not be factored into the IPEEE evaluation for Dresden, Unit 2, please provide a written response within 45 days on CECo's plan for providing additional information to resolve SEP Topic III-6.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:

John F. Stang, Project Manager
Project Directorate III-2
Division of Reactor Projects - III/IV/V
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc: See next page

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J. Roe J. Zwolinski
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NAME	C MOORE	J STANG	J DYER wmm			
DATE	9/10/93	9/10/93	9/10/93	/ /93	/ /93	/ /93
COPY	(YES)/NO	(YES)/NO	(YES)/NO	YES/NO	YES/NO	YES/NO

Mr. D. L. Farrar
Commonwealth Edison Company

Dresden Nuclear Power Station
Unit No. 2

cc:

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