



Commonwealth Edison
1400 Opus Place
Downers Grove, Illinois 60515

June 20, 1994

Mr. William T. Russell, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Attn: Document Control Desk

Subject: Dresden Nuclear Power Station Unit 3
Repair Evaluation for Core Spray Riser Pipe Cracking
NRC Docket Nos. 50-249

- Reference: (a) M. Lyster letter to W. Russell, dated June 6, 1994.
- (b) Teleconference between Commonwealth Edison (J. Schrage, R. Walsh, et. al.) and the NRC Staff (C. Patel, R. Hermann, et. al.), dated June 13, 1994.

Dear Mr. Russell:

In Reference (a), the results of the core spray sparger (CSS) visual examination performed at Dresden Unit 3 during the 1994 refueling outage was submitted to the NRC staff. As discussed in Reference (a), the CSS riser pipe cracks were discovered during the Unit 3 1994 refueling outage while performing augmented visual inspections of the in-vessel core spray piping. This inspection is performed in conjunction with the ASME Section XI Inservice Inspection of the vessel internals.

A repair was designed that addresses the identified cracks and the potential for further cracking at these two welds between the elbows and the respective riser pipe. The repair for the CSS riser pipe cracks is a mechanical clamp design. An evaluation of the safety significance of the crack repair is provided as an attachment to this letter. The purpose of this letter is to provide to the NRC staff our evaluation of the repair to the cracking that was detected. The evaluation, which includes structural, loose parts and Loss of Coolant Accident (LOCA) analyses, concludes that with the crack repair Dresden Unit 3 can safely operate for the balance of the life of the plant.

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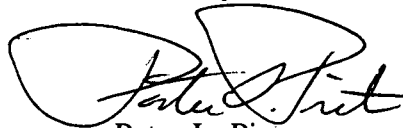
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To the best of my knowledge and belief, the statements contained in this response are true and correct. In some respects, these statements are not based on my personal knowledge, but obtained information furnished by other Commonwealth Edison employees, contractor employees, and consultants. Such information has been reviewed in accordance with company practice, and I believe it to be reliable.

If there are any questions, please contact this office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter L. Pier". The signature is stylized with large, sweeping loops.

Peter L. Pier

Nuclear Licensing Administrator

Attachment: Safety Evaluation for Dresden Unit 3 Core Spray Sparger Riser Repair

cc: J. B. Martin, Regional Administrator - RIII
J. F. Stang, Project Manager - NRR
M.N. Leach, Senior Resident Inspector - Dresden
Office of Nuclear Facility Safety - IDNS