February 8, 1996

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

SUBJECT: SAFETY EVALUATION ON EXTENSION OF THE 15-MONTH STIPULATED ALLOWABLE OPERATING TIME FOR DRESDEN, UNIT 3 (TAC NO. M94074)

Dear Mr. Farrar:

By letter dated November 10, 1995, the Commonwealth Edison Company (ComEd) submitted a request to extend the current 15-month operating cycle for the Dresden Nuclear Power Station, Unit 3, to 18.5 months. The current 15-month operating period above 212°F was approved by the staff in regard to its assessment of intergranular stress corrosion cracking in the Dresden, Unit 3, core shroud. During the most recent refueling outage (spring 1994) for Dresden, Unit 3, ComEd discovered cracking in the circumferential welds in the core shroud. ComEd provided analyses that Dresden, Unit 3, could be operated and the core shroud could maintain margins against failure as specified in Section XI of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code (Code). The assessment of Dresden, Unit 3, operation with the degraded core shroud was documented in the staff's Safety Evaluations (SE) dated July 21, 1994, and August 16, 1995.

The staff evaluated ComEd's November 10, 1995, submittal and concluded that the cracked core shroud will satisfy ASME code margins against weld failure for 18.5 months of operation above cold shutdown. Satisfying the ASME Code margins against failure provides reasonable assure that the core shroud at Dresden, Unit 3, will remain intact, even under postulated licensing basis and beyond licensing basis accident conditions. The staff's assessment took into account new information regarding the Boiling Water Reactor Vessel and Internals Project (BWRVIP) generic guidelines for inspections and evaluations of BWR core shrouds.

Therefore, the staff finds that Dresden, Unit 3, can be safely operated with the degraded core shroud for an additional 3.5 months above 212°F or a total of 18.5 months above 212°F without undue risk to the public health and safety.

Sincerely,

/s/

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

Docket No. 50-249

Enclosure: Safety Evaluation

cc w/encl: See next page

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Division of Reactor Projects - III/IV
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cc w/encl: See next page

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