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December 5, 1996
JSPLTR: 0233.96

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555-0001
Attention: Document Control Desk

Subject: Dresden Nuclear Power Station, Unit 3, Notification of Request for Certification Extension of Reactor Water Cleanup (RWCU) Heat Exchanger "A" Train Vessels from Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety (IDNS).
NRC Docket No. 50-249

Reference: J. Stephen Perry (ComEd) to U.S. NRC letter dated September 20, 1996, "Dresden Nuclear Power Station, Unit 3, Weld Overlay on RWCU Non-Regenerative Heat Exchanger 3-1204AB Tubeside Inlet Nozzle" Supplemental Response.

Dresden Station hereby notifies the NRC of the request to IDNS for an extension of the certification expiration date for the following Unit 3 pressure vessels until May 7, 1997:

ID# U-122937, RWCU Regenerative Heat Exchanger (EPN: 3-1203AA)
ID# U-122938, RWCU Regenerative Heat Exchanger (EPN: 3-1203AB)
ID# U-122966, RWCU Non-Regenerative Heat Exchanger (EPN: 3-1204AA)
ID# U-122967, RWCU Non-Regenerative Heat Exchanger (EPN: 3-1204AB)

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The current certification for these vessels expires on March 1, 1997. This expiration date coincided with the planned Unit 3 refueling outage (D3R14). These vessels will be permanently taken out of service and abandoned in place during D3R14. Due to other plant issues, D3R14 is currently scheduled to start in May 1997.

During the last Unit 3 forced outage in September 1996, a weld overlay repair was done on the inlet nozzle to U-122966. Inspection of the repair, thickness tests, and a hydrostatic test of the vessels, as described on the last State of Illinois Report of Inspection documents dated October 9, 1996, proved the train to be reliable. The Hartford Steam Boiler Authorized Nuclear Inspector recommended issuance of a 160 day short term certificate from September 1996 until March 1, 1997 assuming continued plant operation. Subsequently, IDNS extended the certification date of these vessels until March 1, 1997.

These vessels were operated at normal system temperatures and pressures from September 23, 1996 to October 8, 1996 and again from October 10, 1996 to October 27, 1996 for a total of 34 days. With Unit 3 shutdown, the RWCU System is not in a condition promoting Intergranular Stress Corrosion Cracking (IGSCC).

Dresden Station has requested an extension of the certification on all four vessels until May 7, 1997 based on a planned Unit 3 startup of approximately January 1, 1997 and the minimal use of the vessels since last inspected. The granting of this request will result in approximately the same number of "operating days" (160) as originally requested in September 1996.

If there are questions concerning this letter, please refer them to Mr. Robert Fry, Dresden Station Quality Control Supervisor, at (815) 942-2920, Extension 2205.

Very truly yours,



J. Stephen Perry, Site Vice President
Dresden Station

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