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December 20, 1996

JSPLTR 96-0246

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attn: Document Control Desk
Washington, D.C. 20555

**SUBJECT: Dresden Nuclear Power Station Units 2 and 3
Administrative Limit Imposed on High Pressure Coolant Injection
Isolation Setpoint for Low Reactor Pressure Pending Submittal and
Approval of a Technical Specification Change
NRC Docket Nos. 50-237 and 50-249**

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of interim administrative measures being applied at the Dresden Nuclear Power Station to address an issue regarding the appropriate process setpoint for the automatic isolation of the High Pressure Coolant Injection (HPCI) steam supply on decreasing reactor vessel steam pressure.

The NRC Independent Safety Inspection conducted on Units 2 and 3 of Dresden Station raised questions regarding the setpoint for isolation of the steam supply to the HPCI turbine. This setpoint is utilized in the isolation actuation instrumentation to terminate steam flow to the HPCI turbine when steam supply pressure falls below a level at which the turbine can provide motive power to the HPCI pump and continue to contribute significantly to the ECCS function. The isolation signal also serves to limit the flow of potentially contaminated steam to the HPCI pump turbine, when the reactor vessel pressure falls below the setpoint.

The setpoint is not established in the current facility Technical Specifications, although instrument functional and calibration surveillances are required. The facility UFSAR and design basis documents provide at least two separate setpoints - greater than or equal to 80 psi, and greater than or equal to 100 psi. The upgraded Technical Specifications which are scheduled for implementation by January 15, 1997 include the greater than or equal to 80 psi limit.

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ComEd reviewed the available analyses and design information and an operability evaluation has been completed which supports continued operation of the plant with the setpoint administratively increased to greater than or equal to 100 psi, assuring compliance with the correct setpoint, i.e. greater than or equal to both limits. Operation in this configuration provides assurance of facility compliance with the design bases of the function, and assures it is being operated conservatively with respect to the licensing basis. The current administrative limit is also consistent with the current Technical Specifications, and conservative with respect to the upgraded Technical Specifications

ComEd is preparing an Operating License amendment request to increase the isolation setpoint to greater than or equal to 100 psi, with the amendment request scheduled to be submitted for review by February 28, 1997.

.If you have any questions, please contact Frank Spangenberg, Regulatory Assurance Manager.

Sincerely,


J. Stephen Perry
Site Vice President
Dresden Station

cc: A. Bill Beach, Regional Administrator, Region III
NRC Resident Inspector's Office
J. Stang, Dresden Project Manager