50-249

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

March 28, 1997

Ms. Irene Johnson, Acting Manager
Nuclear Regulatory Services
Commonwealth Edison Company
Executive Towers West III
1400 Opus Place, Suite 500
Downers Grove, IL 60515

SUBJECT: DRESDEN NUCLEAR POWER STATION, UNIT 3 - CORE SHROUD INSPECTION PLAN (TAC NO. M96759)

Dear Ms. Johnson:

By letter dated May 22, 1996, Commonwealth Edison Company (ComEd, the licensee) submitted its core shroud inspection plan for Dresden Nuclear Power Station, Unit 3, for NRC staff review. The subject inspection plan will be implemented during the fourteenth refueling outage (D3R14) at Dresden, Unit 3, currently scheduled to begin March 29, 1997. The licensee stated that a core shroud repair would be installed at Dresden, Unit 3, during the D3R14 outage to structurally replace the core shroud circumferential welds H1 through H7. Therefore, the inspection plan does not include the core shroud horizontal welds, H1 through H7, because the safety functions of these welds are designed to be replaced by the repair assemblies.

The licensee's proposed inspection plan follows the guidance of the Boiling Water Reactor Owners Group (BWROG) Vessel and Internals project (BWRVIP) document, "Guidelines for Reinspection of BWR Core Shrouds (BWRVIP-07)," dated February 29, 1996. The proposed plan is summarized below:

(1) For core shroud horizontal welds H8 (jet pump support plate to the shroud) and H9 (jet pump support plate to the reactor pressure vessel), an enhanced visual examination of about 8 to 12 inches (20.3 to 30.5 cm) at each of the repair attachment sites will be performed.

(2) For all 12 core shroud vertical welds, an enhanced visual examination of 25 percent of the equivalent length of all vertical welds that are not structurally replaced by existing hardware and/or the installed repair, from either the ID or OD of the welds will be performed. If any cracking is detected, expansion and flaw evaluation will be performed per the Option B recommendations of BWRVIP-07.

(3) For all core shroud ring segment welds (e.g., four welds on the shroud head flange ring, six welds on the top guide support ring, and six welds on the core plate support ring), an enhanced visual examination of 25 percent of all accessible surfaces of the welds that are not structurally replaced by existing hardware and/or the installed repair, will be performed. If any cracking is detected, expansion and flaw evaluation will be performed per the Option B recommendations of BWRVIP-07.

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(4) A visual examination of the installed core shroud repair assemblies will be performed to ensure that all installation tolerances have been met.

The licensee has previously submitted its design of the core shroud repair to the NRC staff for evaluation and the NRC staff transmitted its approval of the Dresden, Unit 3, core shroud repair in a letter to the licensee dated December 6, 1995.

The NRC staff is presently reviewing BWRVIP-07 and while the NRC staff has not identified any major deficiencies in the BWRVIP's technical assessment, neither has the NRC staff made a determination as to its acceptability. Therefore, the licensee should be aware that if concerns are found during the review of BWRVIP-07, and the licensee follows its guidance, the NRC staff may request that the license address these concerns from a plant-specific basis.

Based on the staff's review of the licensee's submittal, the staff concludes that the licensee's core shroud inspection plan is acceptable.

The staff has reviewed the licensee's proposed inspection plan and concludes that the inspection plan is acceptable to support the planned core shroud repair at Dresden, Unit 3. This completes the staff's review effort and closes TAC No. M96759.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

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

cc: see next page

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*concurred by memo dated March 4, 1997; no major changes

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