



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

Docket File
TSC3
50-249

June 6, 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: DEFERRAL FROM THE REQUESTED ACTIONS OF BULLETIN 96-03 FOR DRESDEN
NUCLEAR POWER STATION, UNIT 3 (TAC NO. M96143)

Dear Ms. Johnson:

By letter dated October 31, 1996, in response to Bulletin 96-03, you notified the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) that it was the intent of Commonwealth Edison Company (ComEd) to install new emergency core cooling system suction strainers of sufficient size to resolve the issue of potential strainer blockage by loss-of-coolant accident generated debris and other materials during the spring 1997 refueling outage of Dresden, Unit 3.

In a February 26, 1997, letter to the NRC, you notified the NRC that although you still intend to install larger passive suction strainers during the spring 1997 refueling outage at Dresden, Unit 3, you consider it necessary to request a scheduler deferral from compliance with Bulletin 96-03. The basis for this scheduler deferral is that the Boiling Water Reactor Owners Group's Utility Resolution Guidance report, upon which the design of the strainers is based, is still under review by the NRC staff.

We find your request to defer compliance with Bulletin 96-03 until December 31, 1998, acceptable based on your commitments to prior Bulletins on this subject (Bulletin 93-02; Bulletin 93-02, Supplement 1; and Bulletin 95-02), the commitments in your February 26, 1997, letter to desludge the suppression pools, and to undertake a program to reduce the sources of fibrous insulation.

In addition to the ComEd commitments discussed above, we request that you take the following actions:

1. We request that you perform an inspection in the drywell to verify that:

- (1) insulation is not damaged, and
- (2) it is properly installed;

and that any insulation that is damaged or not properly installed be repaired or removed.

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2. We also request that you perform a thorough drywell and suppression pool closeout inspection to verify that all foreign materials such as maintenance tools, equipment, construction materials, and miscellaneous debris, have been removed. This inspection should include the downcomers and vents.

We conclude that the installation of larger strainers, the compensatory actions and commitments to previous Bulletins, along with the two actions requested above will provide assurance of the continued safe operation of Dresden, Unit 3, and, therefore, we find that your request to defer compliance with Bulletin 96-03 is acceptable until December 31, 1998. Within 30 days of completion of refueling outage D3R14 please inform the staff by letter of the completion of your commitments as well as the two additional items referenced above.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

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

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cc: see next page

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I. Johnson
Commonwealth Edison Company

Dresden Nuclear Power Station
Unit Nos. 2 and 3

cc:

Michael I. Miller, Esquire
Sidley and Austin
One First National Plaza
Chicago, Illinois 60603

Site Vice President
Dresden Nuclear Power Station
6500 North Dresden Road
Morris, Illinois 60450-9765

Station Manager
Dresden Nuclear Power Station
6500 North Dresden Road
Morris, Illinois 60450-9765

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Resident Inspectors Office
Dresden Station
6500 North Dresden Road
Morris, Illinois 60450-9766

Regional Administrator
U.S. NRC, Region III
801 Warrenville Road
Lisle, Illinois 60532-4351

Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety
Office of Nuclear Facility Safety
1035 Outer Park Drive
Springfield, Illinois 62704

Chairman
Grundy County Board
Administration Building
1320 Union Street
Morris, Illinois 60450

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Commonwealth Edison Company
1400 Opus Place, Suite 400
Downers Grove, Illinois 60515