

June 13, 1997

T5 C3

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 STATION UNIT 3 - ASSESSMENT OF CORE SPRAY WELD FLAW
EVALUATION (TAC M98941)

Dear Ms. Johnson:

On June 5, 1997, Commonwealth Edison Company (ComEd) submitted a description of flaws identified during an inspection of core spray piping within the reactor vessel at Dresden Unit 3. ComEd's submittal included an evaluation of the effect of those flaws on the structural integrity of the core spray piping, an evaluation of the effect of core spray piping leakage on a design-basis loss-of-coolant accident (LOCA), and an evaluation of postulated piping failures on the peak clad temperature during a design-basis LOCA. Based on the NRC staff's initial review of the submittal, no technical issues have been identified that should prevent the restart of Dresden Unit 3 from the current refueling outage.

You should note that this preliminary assessment may change as the staff reviews the submittal in greater detail. Responsibility for assurance of the integrity of the core spray piping at the time of reactor restart lies with ComEd. If the staff subsequently determines that the flaw and piping integrity evaluations are unacceptable, ComEd will be expected to take prompt action to place the facility in a safe configuration, consistent with the requirements of NRC regulations and the Dresden Unit 3 technical specifications.

The results of the staff's detailed evaluation will be provided to you at a later date. Any concerns that arise during staff review will be promptly communicated to ComEd.

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

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I. Johnson
Commonwealth Edison Company

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Unit Nos. 2 and 3

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