



50-249

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

September 4, 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: FOLLOW-UP EVALUATION OF WELD OVERLAY REPAIR OF RWCU NONREGENERATIVE
HEAT EXCHANGER TUBESIDE INLET NOZZLE - DRESDEN, UNIT 3 (TAC NO.
M96902)

Dear Ms. Johnson:

By letter dated September 16, 1996, Commonwealth Edison Company (ComEd) informed the NRC that through-wall cracks were identified in the inlet nozzles to the reactor water clean up (RWCU) nonregenerative heat exchangers in both the "A" train and the "B" train. The identification of the cracking was during a forced maintenance outage in September 1996. The cracks were caused by intergranular stress corrosion cracking (IGSCC). ComEd's interim fix was to repair the "A" train nozzle with a full structural weld overlay and isolate the "B" train. This condition was to be maintained for approximately 6 months of operation until the next refueling outage (D3R14). The refueling outage started on March 28, 1997. During D3R14, ComEd modified the plant to (1) remove the entire "A" train of the RWCU, and (2) replaced the "B" train RWCU piping and heat exchanger nozzles with material that is less susceptible to IGSCC. ComEd provided additional information in letters dated September 20, 1996, and January 14, 1997.

The subject weld repair has already been removed from service at Dresden, Unit 3. The staff had reviewed ComEd's weld overlay repair prior to restart of Dresden, Unit 3, from a forced maintenance outage in September 1996, and had determined that the subject repair was acceptable for a short-term operation. However, the subject weld overlay repair did not completely meet American Society of Mechanical Engineers Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code Case N-504-1 because the ultrasonic inspection of the completed weld overlay was not performed. Therefore, a complete staff evaluation of the repair was required. The enclosed safety evaluation is a supplemental evaluation.

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Based on the staff's evaluation, it was determined that the design and fabrication of the subject weld overlay meet the guidelines of NUREG-0313, Revision 2. Therefore, the staff concluded that the structural integrity of the repaired weld was maintained during the short-term service from September 1996 until March 1997 when Dresden Unit 3 shut down for its refueling outage.

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

Enclosure: Supplemental Safety Evaluation

cc w/encl: see next page

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Commonwealth Edison Company

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Unit Nos. 2 and 3

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