

September 25, 1997

Mr. J. S. Perry
Site Vice President
Dresden Nuclear Power Station
Commonwealth Edison Company
6500 North Dresden Road
Morris, IL 60450-9765

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT 50-237/97008(DRS); 50-249/97008(DRS)
AND NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Dear Mr. Perry:

This letter refers to the special inspection conducted on March 31, 1997, through May 14, 1997, and June 16, 1997, through July 8, 1997, at the Dresden Nuclear facility. The purpose of the inspection was to determine whether commitments and corrective actions identified by Confirmatory Action Letter (CAL) No. RIII-96-016, dated November 21, 1996, were completed in accordance with NRC requirements. At the conclusion of the inspection, the findings were discussed with those members of your staff identified in the enclosed report.

As a result of this inspection we have determined that, except for those activities associated with the Dresden Engineering Assurance Group (DEAG), the CAL commitments and corrective actions were completed and have satisfied NRC requirements. In addition, those CAL activities that remained on-going were determined to satisfy the intent of the CAL. The inspectors' observations indicated that initial DEAG implementation was not effective as an oversight organization. Although recent changes have demonstrated some improvement in this area, due to the weaknesses observed, we have decided that the CAL will remain open until effective DEAG performance has been demonstrated. The continuation of the monthly CAL meetings, however, will be discontinued and replaced with quarterly meetings. The intent of the quarterly meetings will be to discuss the status and findings of the DEAG activities, the effectiveness of recommended corrective actions, overall engineering performance improvement, and nuclear steam supply system supplier and architect engineer audits. The first quarterly meeting will be held on October 15, 1997, at the Region III Offices. //

The DEAG was established to provide oversight of key engineering activities and was to ensure soundness of current engineering performance. Although no significant safety-related technical deficiencies were identified during the inspection, the administrative weaknesses observed in the implementation of the DEAG raise concerns regarding the overall effectiveness of the DEAG. In addition, problems with lost or misplaced documents within the performance improvement process raise concerns that root cause(s) may not be properly identified and associated corrective actions implemented for all known problems.

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Based on the results of this inspection, certain of your activities appeared to be in violation of NRC requirements as specified in the enclosed Notice of Violation (Notice). The circumstances surrounding the two violations are described in detail in the subject inspection report. The violations are of concern because they demonstrated weaknesses in procedure adherence and the performance improvement process as implemented by the DEAG and your engineering organization.

The NRC has concluded that information regarding the reason for the second violation, the corrective actions taken and planned to correct the violation and prevent recurrence, is already adequately addressed in the subject inspection report. Therefore, you are not required to respond to the violation concerning DEAG procedure adherence unless the description therein does not accurately reflect your corrective actions or your position. In that case, or if you choose to provide additional information, you should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice.

However, you are required to respond to the first violation discussed in this letter and should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice when preparing your response. In your response, you should document the specific actions taken and any additional actions you plan to prevent recurrence. After reviewing your response to this Notice, including your proposed corrective actions and the results of future inspections, the NRC will determine whether further NRC enforcement action is necessary to ensure compliance with NRC regulatory requirements.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the Commission's regulations, a copy of this letter and the enclosed inspection report will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

We will gladly discuss any questions you have concerning these inspections.

Sincerely,

original signed by J. A. Grobe

John A. Grobe, Acting Director
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket Nos. 50-237; 50-249
License Nos. DPR-19; DPR-25

Enclosures: 1. Notice of Violation
2. Inspection Report 50-237/97008(DRS); 50-249/97008(DRS)

See Attached Distribution

DOCUMENT NAME: G:\DRS\DRE97008.DRS

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