



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION III
801 WARRENVILLE ROAD
LISLE, ILLINOIS 60532-4351

February 6, 1998

Mr. Oliver D. Kingsley
President, Nuclear Generation Group
Commonwealth Edison Company
ATTN: Regulatory Services
Executive Towers West III
1400 Opus Place, Suite 500
Downers Grove, IL 60515

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF VIOLATION AND NRC INSPECTION REPORT
NO. 50-237/97028(DRP); 50-249/97028(DRP)

Dear Mr. Kingsley:

This refers to the inspection conducted from November 23, 1997, to January 12, 1998, at the Dresden facility. The purpose of the inspection was to determine whether activities authorized by the license were conducted safely and in accordance with NRC requirements. During this period, routine resident inspections were performed. The enclosed report presents the results of these inspections.

Overall, the plant operations were safe. However, plant material condition and some maintenance activities continued to challenge the operators. On December 6, 1997, efforts to restore the Unit 3 A train of the offgas system resulted in an offgas system fire. On December 13, work performed by the staff caused an unplanned entry into a two-hour limiting condition for operation. On December 23, Unit 2 automatically scrammed due to a spurious average power range monitor (APRM) signal during an unrelated surveillance of reactor pressure vessel high pressure scram signals. Following the scram, the feedwater control system caused the reactor vessel water level to increase high enough to flood the HPCI system, but the HPCI system was still isolated. On three occasions during this inspection period, one or both HPCI systems were inoperable due to material condition and design issues. Some of the material condition issues were repeat items that the station had not been able to resolve successfully.

Based on the results of this inspection, the NRC has determined that violations of NRC requirements occurred. The first violation involves a failure to implement part of the corrective actions process. The inspection found that corrective actions for this violation had already been implemented. The second violation was of concern because inappropriate actions performed during maintenance resulted in an unplanned entry into a two-hour dual-unit limiting condition for operation. The third violation was of concern because it appeared indicative of an increasing trend of errors in controlling contamination area boundaries.

The violations are cited in the enclosed Notice of Violation (Notice), and the circumstances surrounding the violations are described in detail in the subject inspection report.

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You are required to respond to this letter and should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice when preparing your response. The NRC will use your response, in part, to determine whether further enforcement action is necessary to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter, its enclosures, and your response will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

Sincerely,

/s/ G. E. Grant

Geoffrey E. Grant, Chief
Division of Reactor Projects

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

Enclosures: 1. Notice of Violation
2. Inspection Report
No. 50-237/97028(DRP);
50-249/97028(DRP)

cc w/encs: M. Wallace, Chief of Staff
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G. Stanley, PWR Vice President
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Services Manager
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DCD - Licensing
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