



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION III  
801 WARRENVILLE ROAD  
LISLE, ILLINOIS 60532-4351

March 4, 1998

EA 97-546

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: NRC INSPECTION REPORT NO. 50-237/98006(DRP);  
50-249/98006(DRP)

Dear Mr. Kingsley:

On February 13, 1998, the NRC completed an inspection at your Dresden Nuclear Power Station. The enclosed report presents the results of that inspection.

Based on the results of this inspection, two apparent violations were identified and are being considered for escalated enforcement action in accordance with the "General Statement of Policy and Procedure for NRC Enforcement Actions," NUREG-1600. Accordingly, no Notice of Violation is presently being issued for these inspection findings. In addition, please be advised that the number and characterization of apparent violations, described in detail in the enclosed inspection report, may change as a result of further NRC review. The first apparent violation involves a failure to ensure that the design basis was correctly translated into procedures, such that procedures allowed simultaneous opening of drywell and torus ventilation valves. This resulted in bypassing the pressure suppression function of the containment system. The second apparent violation involves the failure to promptly identify and correct the conditions which allowed bypass of the pressure suppression function following notification of the issue by the LaSalle Station and by NRC inspectors. Failing to correct this condition resulted in a situation where plant operators would have bypassed the pressure suppression function if NRC inspectors had not intervened. In addition to the apparent violations, an unresolved item involving the reportability of the above condition was identified.

An open predecisional enforcement conference to discuss these apparent violations has been scheduled for March 18, 1998, at 1:00 p.m. You should also address circumstances surrounding the unresolved item in the conference. The decision to hold a predecisional enforcement conference does not mean that the NRC has determined that a violation has occurred or that enforcement action will be taken. This conference is being held to obtain information to enable the NRC to make an enforcement decision, such as a common understanding of the facts, root causes, missed opportunities to identify the apparent violation sooner, corrective actions, significance of the issues and the need for lasting and effective corrective action. In addition, this is an opportunity for you to point out any errors in our inspection report and for you to provide any information concerning your perspectives on: 1) the severity of the violations; 2) the application of the factors that the NRC considers when it determines the amount of a civil penalty that may be assessed in accordance with Section VI.B.2 of the Enforcement Policy; and 3) any other application of the Enforcement Policy to this case, including the exercise of discretion in accordance with Section VII.

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PDR ADOCK 05000237  
Q PDR



PUBLIC IE-01

You will be advised by separate correspondence of the results of our deliberations on this matter. No response regarding these apparent violations is required at this time.

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

Sincerely,



Geoffrey E. Grant, Director  
Division of Reactor Projects

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

Enclosure: Inspection Report  
No. 50-237/98006(DRP);  
50-249/98006(DRP)

cc w/encl: M. Wallace, Senior Vice President  
D. Helwig, Senior Vice President  
G. Stanley, PWR Vice President  
J. Perry, BWR Vice President  
D. Farrar, Regulatory  
Services Manager  
I. Johnson, Licensing Director  
DCD - Licensing  
M. Heffley, Site Vice President  
T. Nauman, Station Manager Unit 1  
P. Stafford, Station Manager Units 2 and 3  
F. Spangenberg, Regulatory Assurance  
Manager  
Richard Hubbard  
Nathan Schloss, Economist  
Office of the Attorney General  
State Liaison Officer  
Chairman, Illinois Commerce  
Commission

O. Kingsley

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Sincerely,

/s/ Marc L. Dapas for  
Geoffrey E. Grant, Director  
Division of Reactor Projects

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