

DCD/DCB

March 26, 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: CLOSURE OF CONFIRMATORY ACTION LETTER (CAL) NO. RIII-96-016  
DRESDEN GENERATING STATION UNITS 2 AND 3

References: (1) NRC letter, Samuel J. Collins to Thomas J. Maiman, dated August 9, 1996  
(2) ComEd letter, J. S. Perry to A. Bill Beach, dated November 8, 1996  
(3) NRC Confirmatory Action Letter RIII-96-016 dated November 21, 1996  
(4) NRC Inspection Report 50-237/249-97008(DRS) dated September 25, 1997  
(5) NRC Inspection Report 50-237/249-97021(DRS) dated March 6, 1998

Dear Mr. Kingsley:

On November 21, 1996, the NRC issued Confirmatory Action Letter (CAL) No. RIII-96-016, to document your commitments to address preliminary results of the NRC Independent Safety Inspection (ISI) conducted at the Dresden Generating Station. The ISI evaluation identified significant concerns with the station's control of calculations and with the overall performance of site and corporate engineering activities. In response to the ISI concerns, Dresden staff performed a series of reviews and concluded that plant conditions were safe and supported continued operation. The results of those reviews and actions Dresden staff planned to provide further confidence in the adequacy of the design basis and engineering activities were summarized in Reference 2. The CAL documented various planned corrective actions to improve the performance of the engineering organization. One of the planned activities was the formation of a Dresden Engineering Assurance Group (DEAG) that was composed of senior ComEd engineering personnel and experienced outside experts to provide oversight of key engineering activities.

The NRC evaluated the CAL activities and determined that the CAL commitments and corrective actions were completed and that your engineering staff was effective in the identification and resolution of technical issues, that self-assessments exhibited a pro-active trend in the attempt to disclose performance problems within the engineering organization, and

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that the quality of engineering reviews were in most cases technically sound. As a result, our letter, dated March 6, 1998 (Reference 5), documented our findings and conclusion that Dresden staff has adequately addressed the issues identified in the CAL.

Based on the NRC inspection activities identified above, I have determined that CAL RIII-96-016 is formally closed. We noted the resolve of your staff to complete the CAL action items and other corrective action activities. Continued vigilance, however, will be necessary to ensure that the positive changes initiated at the Dresden Station over the past year are permanently integrated into the plant staff's day-to-day activities. The NRC will continue to closely monitor Dresden's progress through the routine inspection program.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by A. B. Beach

A. Bill Beach  
Regional Administrator

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

cc: 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  
P. Swafford, Station Manager Units 2 and 3  
F. Spangenberg, Regulatory Assurance  
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