

Commonwealth Edison Company
Dresden Generating Station
6500 North Dresden Road
Morris, IL 60450
Tel 815-942-2920



May 22, 1998

JMHLTR: #98-0155

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attn: Document Control Desk
Washington, D.C. 20555

Subject Dresden Nuclear Power Station Unit 2
Cycle 16 Reload and Core Operating Limits Report
NRC Docket No. 50-237

- References:
1. B. Siegel (USNRC) to T. Kovach (ComEd) dated February 8, 1990. Approving the Technical Specification Amendment and Core Operating Limits Report per Generic Letter 88-16.
 2. John Hosmer (ComEd) to USNRC Document Control Desk letter dated August 29, 1997 "Quad Cities Nuclear Power Station Units 1 and 2, Dresden Nuclear Power Station Units 2 and 3. LaSalle County Nuclear Power Station Units 1 and 2, Application for Amendment of Facility Operating Licenses, DPR-29 and DPR-30, DPR-19 and DPR-25, and NPF-11 and NPF-18, respectively, Technical Specification Changes for Transition to Siemens Power Corporation ATRIUM-9B Fuel, Docket Nos. 50-254 and 50-265, 50-237 and 50-249, and 50-373 and 50-374, respectively."
 3. J. M. Heffley (ComEd) to USNRC, JMHLTR 98-0077, March 19, 1998. "Dresden Nuclear Power Station Unit 2, Exigent Amendment Request to Facility Operating Licenses, DPR-19, Technical Specification Submittal. Docket No. 50-237."
 4. L.W. Rossbach (USNRC) to O.D. Kingsley (ComEd) SER dated April 10, 1998 for Unit 2 Technical Specification Amendment 168 to increase the MCPR-SL to 1.09

Dresden Unit 2, which has completed its fifteenth cycle of operation, has begun operation in Cycle 16. The purpose of this letter is to advise you of ComEd's review and approval of the Cycle 16 reload under the provisions of 10CFR50.59 and to transmit the Core

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Operating Limits Report (COLR) for the current cycle consistent with Generic Letter 88-16. The Technical Specification amendment to incorporate the COLR for Dresden was approved in Reference 1.

The Dresden Unit 2 Cycle 16 core which consists of NRC-approved fuel designs developed by Siemens Power Corporation (SPC), was designed to operate within approved fuel design criteria, Technical Specifications and related bases, such that the core operating characteristics will be equivalent to or less limiting than those performed to demonstrate that the limiting postulated UFSAR events which could potentially be affected by the reload are within allowable limits.

The reload licensing analyses performed for Cycle 16 utilized NRC-approved methodologies. The cycle-specific thermal limits for Cycle 16 are presented in the attached Core Operating Limits Report (COLR).

ComEd has performed a detailed review of the relevant reload licensing documents and the associated bases and references. Based on that review, a safety evaluation was prepared, as required by 10CFR50.59, which concludes that the reload presents no unreviewed safety questions. ComEd found it necessary to request (Reference 3) the MCPR-SL for Unit 2 be raised from 1.08 to 1.09 for Cycle 16 based on testing performed by SPC after submittal of Reference 2. This request was approved by the Staff in Reference 4. No additional changes to the Technical Specifications are required as a result of the reload.

Verification of the reload core design was performed during startup testing. The startup tests are and will continue to be consistent with the Draft Regulatory Guide (Task SC 521-4). A summary of the results of key startup tests will be transmitted within 90 days following the resumption of commercial operation.

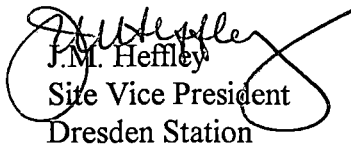
Based on the previous discussion, ComEd concluded that additional NRC review and approval of the Dresden Unit 2 reload analyses was not required for resumption of operation of the Cycle 16 core.

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Please address any questions concerning this letter to Frank Spangenberg, Regulatory Assurance Manager, extension 3800.

Sincerely,


J.M. Heffley
Site Vice President
Dresden Station

Attachment: Core Operating Limits Report for Dresden Station Unit 2, Cycle 16

cc. Regional Administrator, Region III
L.W. Rossbach, Dresden Project Manager, NRR
K. Reimer, Senior Resident Inspector, Dresden
Office of Nuclear Facility Safety-IDNS