



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION III  
801 WARRENVILLE ROAD  
LISLE, ILLINOIS 60532-4351

August 7, 1998

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

SUBJECT: DRESDEN INSPECTION REPORT 50-237/98019(DRP); 50-249/98019(DRP)  
AND NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Dear Mr. Kingsley:

On May 28 through July 14, 1998, the NRC performed an inspection at your Dresden Nuclear Power Station. The enclosed report presents the results of this inspection.

During the inspection period, a safety-conscious approach characterized the overall conduct of activities at the Dresden station. However, several issues showed that challenges to smooth operation remained at the station.

During the inspection period, another unplanned automatic reactor scram occurred. This Unit 2 scram occurred because of the material condition of the pumps in the electro hydraulic control system. Material condition problems affecting equipment availability were also experienced with the Unit 2 emergency diesel generator, the security diesel generator and the containment cooling service water pumps. While we recognize your efforts at scram reduction and improvements in material condition, these events demonstrated that continued attention is still needed for both of these areas.

Three times during this period, operators failed to recognize conditions that required entry into Technical Specification limiting conditions for operation. Two of these were related to misunderstandings by the operators regarding the impact of maintenance activities on equipment operability. In the other instance, the operations and engineering staffs failed to assure prompt and complete resolution of a failure of post-accident monitoring instrumentation. We are concerned about this item because NRC involvement was required to bring the matter to station management's attention, and the resolution of the issue was slow and incomplete.

During the period, operators experienced difficulty in restoring the core spray system following on-line maintenance. The delay in system restoration resulted in unnecessary outage time for the core spray system. The delay was associated with performance of the maintenance on-line for the first time. This issue is of concern because this was the second recent occurrence where work performed on-line for the first time caused unanticipated consequences.

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Based on the results of this inspection, the NRC has determined that violations of NRC requirements occurred. These violations are cited in the enclosed Notice of Violation (Notice) and the circumstances surrounding them are described in detail in the subject inspection report. The first violation is of concern because it represented a negative trend in recognition of activities covered by Technical Specifications. The second violation is of concern because it involved a very slow resolution of degraded Technical Specification-required instrumentation. Although the first violation involved issues identified by your operations staff, the violation is being issued because of the repetitiveness of the problem. The third violation regarded submittal of the core operating limits report, and was of concern because it represented additional examples of failing to follow Technical Specifications.

You are required to respond to this letter and should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice when preparing your response. In your response to the violation for failing to log entry into limiting conditions for operation, please address the issue of recognition of situations covered by Technical Specifications limiting conditions for operations.

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

Sincerely,

/s/ Geoffrey E. Grant

Geoffrey E. Grant, Director  
Division of Reactor Projects

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

Enclosures: 1. Notice of Violation  
2. Inspection Report 50-237/98019(DRP);  
50-249/98019(DRP)

See Attached Distribution

DOCUMENT NAME: G:\DRES\DRE98019.DRP

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