



Commonwealth Edison
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MAY 21 1980

May 19, 1980

Mr. James G. Keppler, Director
Directorate of Inspection and
Enforcement - Region III
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
799 Roosevelt Road
Glen Elly, IL 60137

Subject: Dresden Station Units 2 and 3
Quad Cities Station Units 1 and 2
Additional Response to IE Bulletin
79-26, Boron Loss of Control
Blades
NRC Docket Nos. 50-237/249 and
50-254/265

Reference (a): J. G. Keppler letter to C. Reed dated
November 20, 1979

Dear Mr. Keppler:

This letter is to provide the Commonwealth Edison Co. response to Item 3 of IE Bulletin 79-26, which was transmitted by Reference (a), for Dresden Units 2 and 3 and Quad Cities Units 1 and 2. Our response is as follows:

- Item 3a: Prior to initial startup for Dresden 2 Cycle 7 (5-1-79), Dresden 3 Cycle 7 (4-24-80), Quad Cities 1 Cycle 5 (2-27-79) and Quad Cities 2 Cycle 5 (4-20-80), each control blade was fully withdrawn (individually) and subcriticality was verified by observing the SRM instrumentation. During a Quad Cities 1 outage on 12-19-79, sufficient blades were individually withdrawn and subcritically verified to further demonstrate compliance with Item 3a.
- Item 3b: Local shutdown margin tests were also performed at the times indicated in "3a" on all four units utilizing the strongest control rod and diagonally adjacent rod. Shutdown margins in excess of that required by Technical Specifications were demonstrated. Dresden Unit 2 is the only unit of these four expected to operate with blades at or slightly beyond 34% segment average boron-10 depletions hence it is the only Unit requiring a shutdown margin penalty for postulated B₄C leaching. This penalty was conservatively calculated to be 0.12% K for Cycle 7. A detailed analysis of the BOC7 in sequence

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critical with the strongest blade fully withdrawn showed the Dresden 2 shutdown margin to be 1.52% K - much greater than the sum of its Technical Specification requirement and penalty for postulated B₄C leaching (.39% K). Control blade exposures will be monitored during the present and future cycles to verify the projected end-of-cycle exposure.

Please address any questions concerning this matter to this office.

Very truly yours,



D. L. Peoples
Director of
Nuclear Licensing

cc: Director, Division of
Reactor Operations Inspection

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