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February 5, 1990

Dr. Thomas E. Murley, Director
Office Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Subject: Dresden Nuclear Power Station Units 2 and 3
Core Operating Limits Reports
NRC Docket Nos. 50-237 and 249

Reference: Letter from J.A. Silady to T.E. Murley, "Dresden
Nuclear Power Station Units 2 and 3, Proposed Amendment
to Remove Cycle-Specific Core Limits from the
Technical Specifications," dated October 30, 1989.

Dr. Murley:

Dresden Station Unit 3, which has completed its eleventh cycle of operation, is currently preparing for Cycle 12 startup. The purpose of this letter is twofold: (1) to advise you of Commonwealth Edison's review and approval of the Unit 3 Cycle 12 reload under the provisions of 10 CFR 50.59, and (2) to transmit the attached Core Operating Limits Reports (COLR) for both the upcoming cycle of Unit 3 as well as the current cycle of Unit 2, consistent with Generic Letter 88-16. Note that the necessary Technical Specification changes to incorporate the COLR were proposed in the Reference submittal. Edison's 10 CFR 50.59 evaluation of the Unit 3 reload assumes approval of this amendment prior to unit startup.

The Dresden Unit 3 Cycle 12 core consists of NRC approved fuel designs and was designed to operate under currently approved fuel design parameters, Technical Specifications, and related bases such that:

- 1) Core operating characteristics will be less limiting than those previously reviewed and accepted; or
- 2) For those postulated incidents analyzed and reported in the Final Safety Analysis Report (FASR) which could potentially be affected by the fuel reload, re-analysis using NRC-approved methods has demonstrated that the results of the postulated events are within allowable limits.

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Commonwealth Edison has performed a detailed review of the relevant licensing documents, the bases, and references. Based on the review, a safety evaluation was prepared as required by 10 CFR 50.59(a, b) and submitted to On-Site and Off-Site Review. As in the past, the reload licensing analyses were performed using NRC approved methodologies

Edison has reviewed the cycle-specific licensing results and concluded that additional Technical Specification changes are not required for Cycle 12 operation at Dresden Unit 3 assuming the reference amendment receives NRC approval. Furthermore, Edison has completed On-Site and Off-Site Reviews which determined that no unreviewed safety questions are created by the reload.

Therefore, application for an amendment to the Dresden Unit 3 operating license is not required for resumption of operation with the Cycle 12 reload core. The estimated startup is February 10, 1990.

If there are any further questions regarding this matter, please contact this office.

Very truly yours,



John A. Silady

Nuclear Licensing Administrator

Attachments: a) COLR for Dresden Unit 3 Cycle 12
b) COLR for Dresden Unit 2 Cycle 12

cc: A.B. Davis - Regional Administrator, RIII
B.L. Siegel - Project Manager, NRR
S.G. DuPont - Senior Resident Inspector, Dresden

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