

Distribution

March 22, 1978

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- ORB #3
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- DEisenhut
- TBAbernathy
- JRBuchanan
- ACRS (16)

Docket No. 50-249

Bevan

Commonwealth Edison Company
 ATTN: Mr. C. Reed
 Assistant Vice President
 P. O. Box 676
 Chicago, Illinois 60609

Gentlemen:

Enclosed for your information is a copy of a Notice of Granting an Exemption from the Requirements of General Design Criterion 50, "Containment Design Basis", of Appendix A to 10 CFR Part 50 for the Dresden Unit No. 3 Plant which has been filed with the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

Original signed by
 George Lear, Chief
 Operating Reactors Branch #3
 Division of Operating Reactors

Enclosure:
Exemption

cc w/enclosure:
See page 2

OFFICE	ORB #3	ORB #3	ORB #3		
SURNAME	SSheppard:mj	RBevan	GLear		
DATE	3/23/78	3/23/78	3/23/78		

cc w/enclosures:

Mr. John W. Rowe
Isham, Lincoln & Beale
Counselors at Law
One First National Plaza, 42nd Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60603

Mr. B. B. Stephenson
Plant Superintendent
Dresden Nuclear Power Station
Rural Route #1
Morris, Illinois 60450

Anthony Z. Roisman
Natural Resources Defense Council
917 15th Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20005

Morris Public Library
604 Liberty Street
Morris, Illinois 60451

Illinois Department of Public Health
ATTN: Chief, Division of Nuclear
Safety
535 West Jefferson
Springfield, Illinois 62761

Mr. William Waters
Chairman, Board of Supervisors
of Grundy County
Grundy County Courthouse
Morris, Illinois 60450

Chief, Energy Systems Analyses
Branch (AW-459)
Office of Radiation Programs
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
Room 645, East Tower
401 M Street, S. W.
Washington, D. C. 20460

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
Federal Activities Branch
Region V Office
ATTN: EIS COORDINATOR
230 South Dearborn Street
Chicago, Illinois 60604

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

DOCKET NO. 50-298

COMMONWEALTH EDISON COMPANY

NOTICE OF GRANTING AN EXEMPTION FROM THE
REQUIREMENTS OF GENERAL DESIGN CRITERION 50,
"CONTAINMENT DESIGN BASIS", OF APPENDIX A
TO 10 CFR PART 50

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has granted an exemption from the requirements of General Design Criterion 50, "Containment Design Basis", of Appendix A to 10 CFR Part 50 to Commonwealth Edison Company (the Licensee). This exemption relates to the demonstrated safety margin of the Mark I containment system for Dresden Unit No. 3 for recently identified hydrodynamic suppression pool loads associated with a postulated design basis loss of coolant accident and provides for operation under the conditions specified in the NRC staff's "Mark I Containment Short Term Program Safety Evaluation Report" and under any resulting Technical Specification requirements. To this extent, this exemption encompasses any related requirements of 10 CFR Part 50, Section 50.55a(g), and General Design Criterion 1. This exemption is effective as of the date of its issuance.

The Commission has evaluated the demonstrated safety margin of the containment system for Dresden Unit No. 3 under present conditions and has concluded that sufficient margin exists to preclude undue risk to the health and safety of the public. This evaluation is documented in the staff's "Mark I Containment Short Term Program Safety Evaluation Report," NUREG-0408, December 1977.

This exemption is granted for an interim period of approximately two years while a more detailed review is conducted. At the conclusion of this review, the design safety margin of the containment system for Dresden Unit No. 3 will be restored to that which was originally intended at the time Dresden Unit No. 3 was licensed for operation. The basis of this exemption is set forth in the letter to the licensee granting the exemption, dated February 28, 1978.


The Commission has determined that the granting of this exemption will not result in any significant environmental impact and that pursuant to 10 CFR Section 51.5(d)(4) an environmental impact statement or negative declaration and environmental impact appraisal need not be prepared in connection with this action.

For further details with respect to this action, see (1) the Commission's letter to the licensee dated February 28, 1978, and (2) the Commission's "Mark I Containment Short Term Program Safety Evaluation Report," NUREG-0408, December 1977.

These items are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, N. W., Washington, D. C. and at the Morris Public Library, 604 Liberty Street, Morris, Illinois 60451. A copy of item (1) may be obtained upon request addressed to the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D. C. 20555, Attention: Director, Division of Operating Reactors. A copy of item (2) may be obtained upon request addressed to the National Technical Information Service, Springfield, Virginia 22161

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland this 22nd day of March 1978.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George Lear". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

George Lear, Chief
Operating Reactors Branch #3
Division of Operating Reactors