

Docket No. 50-249

AUGUST 29 1978

Commonwealth Edison Company
ATTN: Mr. Cordell Reed
Assistant Vice President
P. O. Box 767
Chicago, Illinois 60690

Distribution

- ✓ Docket
- ORB #3
- Local PDR
- NRC PDR
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- Attorney, OELD
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- DEisenhut
- TBAbernathy
- JRBuchanan
- ACRS (16)

Gentlemen:

A number of instances of control rods failing to fully insert on scram have occurred over the past few years. The typical reported event involves a number of rods stopping short of the fully inserted position and then settling back to notch position "02" or six inches short of full insertion.

It is the staff's understanding that while failure to fully insert to the "00" position has occurred at a number of plants, not all of these events have been reported; perhaps because the event was not considered to have sufficient safety significance. Therefore, it is difficult for the staff to determine if instances of control rods failing to insert are decreasing or are indicative of a generic problem with potential safety implications. To enable a better understanding of the number of facilities affected and any trend in the number of rods failing to insert on each scram, we are requesting all licensees with operating BWRs to review their records for calendar year 1977. We would appreciate receiving a letter within 30 days that states that either no such events occurred at your facility(s) or that within 90 days of this letter you will provide a summary tabulation of the events. For each such event, you should identify the number of rods not fully inserted, the position of the rods, the cause of failure to fully insert and any related maintenance activities. Reference to reports that already describe such events is acceptable.

We recommend that you maintain an ongoing tabulation of any additional such events that may occur during the calendar year 1978. Should our evaluation of the 1977 data warrant, we may make a similar request for data covering calendar year 1978.

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This request for generic information was approved by GAO under a blanket clearance number B-180225(R0536); this clearance expires June 30, 1981.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Thomas A. Ippolito, Chief
Operating Reactors Branch #3
Division of Operating Reactors

cc: See next page

OFFICE	ORB #3	ORB #3	ORB #3		
SURNAME	S Sheppard	R Bevan:mjf	Ippolito		
DATE	8/25/78	8/28/78	8/29/78		

cc

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