

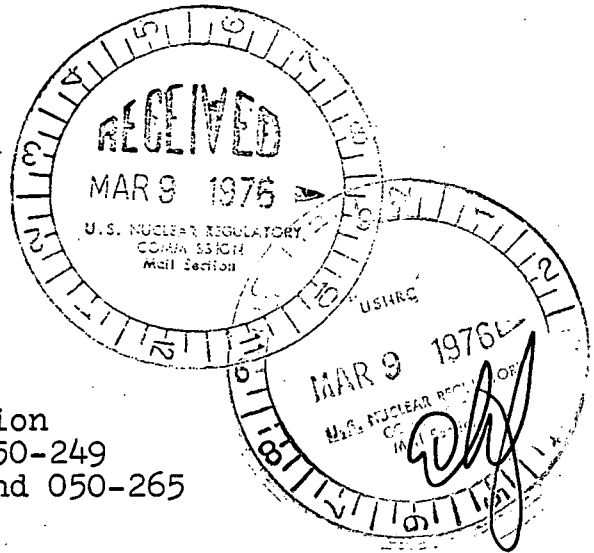


Commonwealth Edison
One First National Plaza, Chicago, Illinois
Address Reply to: Post Office Box 767
Chicago, Illinois 60690

March 2, 1976

Mr. Benard C. Rusche, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Subject: Dresden Units 2 and 3
Quad Cities Units 1 and 2
Mark I Containment Evaluation
NRC Docket Nos. 050-237, 050-249
050-254, and 050-265



Dear Mr. Rusche:

On February 6, 1976, we submitted a letter report to you justifying the continued operation of the subject units based on our review of the current status of the Mark I containment evaluation. In that letter we outlined actions that were being considered to increase margins between capability and expected load on certain elements in the torus structural support system.

Since then, it is our understanding that certain members of your staff met with GE, Bechtel, and other consultants in San Jose on February 19 and 20, 1976 for additional discussions regarding the Mark I containment analysis. Then, on February 25 in a telephone conversation with you and members of your staff, it was decided that the owners group would meet with the staff the following day in Bethesda to review your current assessment and our position regarding implementation of load mitigation methods on the Mark I plants, including our subject units.

At the February 26 meeting, we agreed to increase the available margins of safety for the torus structural support system via maintaining a differential pressure of at least 1 PSID between the drywell and the torus air volumes during normal operation. In a subsequent telephone conversation with members of your staff (L. Shao and P. O'Conner) on Monday, March 1, it was agreed that, at Quad Cities Units 1 and 2, which have H column torus supports with welds which the Staff believed to be critical points in the analysis, the differential pressure should be 1.2 PSID; at Dresden, which has pipe column supports, the differential pressure of 1 PSID remains acceptable.

We verbally confirmed to your staff on Monday, March 1, 1976 (P. O'Conner and R. Silver) that we were operating with at least a 1 PSID differential in drywell to torus pressure at Dresden Units 2 and 3, and at least 1.2 PSID at Quad Cities Unit 2. Further, we confirmed that Quad Cities Unit 1, currently in a refueling outage, would be operated with a 1.2 PSID, following startup of that Unit on or about March 7.

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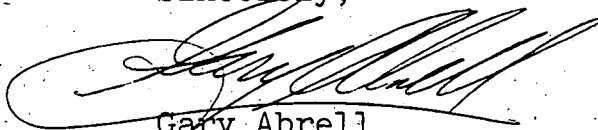
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We are currently achieving the differential pressure by utilizing existing equipment including our nitrogen supply system to the primary containment, the standby gas treatment system, and the drywell-torus purge system. We are currently evaluating a new system consisting of an air prime mover taking suction from the torus and discharging through a pressure control valve to the drywell to achieve pressure control more efficiently.

With respect to the conditions for maintenance of the stated differential pressure, we would like to point out that operation without the differential pressure may be required for short periods of time for certain tests and other conditions. Per our understanding in the February 26 meeting, we will discuss these items with you on a case by case basis if the need arises.

As indicated in our February 6 letter and at the February 26 meeting, certain structural modifications are being considered. We will discuss these with your staff at their convenience.

Sincerely,



Gary Abrell
Nuclear Licensing Administrator