~~NRC PDR~~

NSIC

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

DEC 28 1979

Docket Nos. 50-599
and 50-600

Mr. James M. Brown, Jr.
Chief, System Reliability
and Emergency Response Branch
Economic Regulatory Administration
U.S. Department of Energy
Washington, D.C. 20545

Dear Mr. Brown:

As discussed with you and Mr. Sheehan during a meeting with Messrs. Ballard and Haupt of the NRC on December 10, 1979, the Commonwealth Edison Company of Illinois (applicant) has submitted to the NRC, part one of an application for construction permits for the Carroll County Nuclear Generating Station, Unit Nos. 1 and 2. This application includes a reques' that the NRC conduct an early site review, hearing and issue a partial decision on issues of site suitability.

The proposed site is located in northwestern Illinois, about 5 miles southeast of the city of Savanna and 3 miles east of the Mississippi River in Carroll County. The applicant has also considered alternative sites to the proposed prime site in Carroll County. These alternative sites are all located in Illinois and are described in Section 9.2 of the applicant's Site Suitability Environmental Report.

We are requesting the formal assistance of the Economic Regulatory Administration (ERA) in providing an analysis that addresses the reliability and costs of the transmission system for the proposed Carroll County plant, each of the site alternatives presented in the applicant's Environmental Report, and yet to be specified candidate sites in southeastern Illinois. Following receipt of information from the applicant, we will provide you with the specific site locations of the proposed candidate sites in southeastern Illinois so that you may include them in your analysis. Your written analysis will be integrated into the alternate site section of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) which is being prepared by the NRC for this application. We anticipate that the draft EIS will be issued for comment in March 1980. Furthermore, should the issue of transmission system reliability and costs be admitted as a formal contention in the adjucatory hearing associated with this project, we would expect ERA to provide an expert witness to provide testimony in support of the ERA analysis.

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It is our understanding that the System Reliability and Emergency Response Branch will provide the NRC with a series of questions concerning transmission line reliability and costs by January 2, 1980. These questions, the responses to which will provide the basis for your analysis will be forwarded to the applicant so that the specific input from ERA can be developed.

As has been our practice on the Seabrook and New England projects, the NRC will reimburse the ERA for expenses, e.g., computer time and travel, related to the preparation of your analysis. In that regard, please provide us with an estimate of related expenses so that we may initiate actions for reimbursement.

We look forward to working with your staff on this project and are most appreciative of your assistance.

Sincerely,

D. J. Youngblood for

Wm. H. Regan, Jr., Acting Assistant
Director for Environmental
Projects and Technology
Division of Site Safety and
Environmental Analysis

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