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

Docket No. 50-10

AUG 15 1979

Ms. Marty Westerman  
Rt. #1, Box 279  
St. Anne, Illinois 60964

Dear Ms. Westerman:

This is in response to your letter dated July 12, 1979, to the NRC which requested that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) be prepared prior to the chemical decontamination of Dresden Nuclear Power Station Unit No. 1. We are currently reviewing the need for such an impact statement for the decontamination as a result of a petition by Mrs. Kay Drey dated March 10, 1979.

A copy of our response to Mrs. Drey and the related Federal Register notice are enclosed for your information. Please be assured that the Dresden decontamination will not go forth until the need for an Environmental Impact Statement is resolved.

We will provide you with copies of our decision on this matter when we have completed our review.

With respect to the specific questions posed in your letter, the following answers are provided:

- Q1. Will the people participating in the Dresden decontamination experiment suffer from exposure to the combination of the solvent and the radioactive materials that will be suspended in the solvent?
- A. The occupational exposure to the workers at Dresden 1 is being minimized by carefully planning the decontamination program and training the workers to carry out their tasks as quickly and efficiently as possible. Commonwealth Edison has estimated the radiation exposure that is expected to be received during each discrete task involved in the cleaning procedure. The high exposure tasks have been evaluated to minimize operator exposure by shielding and preplanning. Emergency procedures have been developed to minimize personnel exposure in the event of a malfunction.

We have reviewed the licensee's submittals regarding occupational exposure and have concluded that Commonwealth Edison has taken appropriate measures to assure that occupational exposures will be maintained as low as reasonably achievable during the decontamination and waste treatment operations at Dresden Unit 1.

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- Q2. Will the radioactive wastes migrate faster than normal once the Dow chemical solvent reacts with the wastes?
- A. The migration of radionuclides will be prevented by solidifying the waste and disposing of it at dry western desert sites where there will be no interaction with ground water because of the extremely deep water table.
- Q3. Will any of this waste remain on site, possibly coming in contact with the soil and then rapidly being leached into the ground water?
- A. No, the radioactive wastes that are flushed from the system will be evaporated to reduce its volume in the radioactive waste facility. After evaporation the concentrated liquid waste will be solidified using Dow Chemical's Solidification Process for Low Level Radioactive Wastes. After solidification the waste will be transported by a commercial radioactive waste disposal carrier in approximately 1200 55 gallon drums. The waste will be packaged and shielded to meet all applicable transportation requirements. The solidified radioactive waste will be transported to a commercial low level waste burial site, such as Beatty, Nevada or Hanford, Washington.
- Q4. Will the operation of Dresden 1 become more hazardous in the future due to the process? According to one study, stainless steel, which is used in the reactor vessel, is somewhat porous. After cleaning, steel is found to deteriorate. What impact will this have on the operation and safety of the plant?
- A. Before returning Dresden 1 to service following decontamination of the primary cooling system, a comprehensive pre-service inspection will be performed to assure the integrity of the primary coolant system and assess the effect of the chemical cleaning on safety-related components that have been in contact with the cleaning solvent.

Facility Operating License No. DPR-2, issued to Dresden Unit 1, requires that Commonwealth Edison operate the facility in accordance with detailed operating standards called Technical Specifications. The specifications establish limits on operating parameters related to safety and establish the minimum complement of safety-related equipment needed to assure that these limits are not violated.

Commonwealth Edison must comply with all the requirements of the facility Technical Specifications before returning the facility to service, including all the normal inspections and tests required before returning the reactor to service following each refueling outage.

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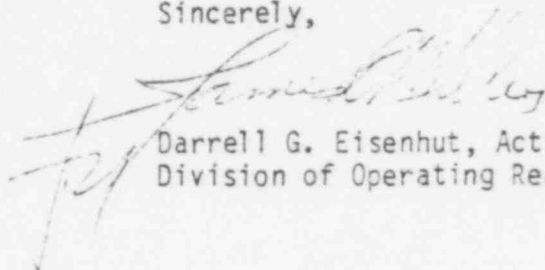
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Ms. Marty Westerman

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I hope that this information is responsive to your request. If we can be of further assistance, please let us know.

Sincerely,



Darrell G. Eisenhut, Acting Director  
Division of Operating Reactors

Enclosures:  
As stated

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et No. 50-10

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Ms. Kay Drey  
515 West Point Avenue  
University City, Missouri 63130

Dear Ms. Drey:

This letter is sent to acknowledge receipt of your petition dated March 10, 1979, asking that an Environmental Impact Statement be prepared on the proposed decontamination experiments at Dresden Nuclear Power Station, Unit 1, designed to flush radioactive corrosion products from portions of the facility's piping. Your request is being treated under the procedures specified in 10 CFR 2.206 of the Commission's regulations and accordingly, we will inform you of our decision on your request within a reasonable time. Enclosed for your information is a copy of the notice regarding your request that will be filed for publication with the Office of the Federal Register.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By  
Roger S. Boyd

*RSB*  
Harold R. Denton, Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure  
Notice

cc w/enclosure  
Mr. Cordell Reed  
Assistant Vice President  
Commonwealth Edison Company  
P. O. Box 767  
Chicago Illinois 60680

Mr. Paul Petit  
Department of Energy  
Mail Stop B 107  
Washington, D. C. 20545

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

COMMONWEALTH EDISON COMPANY )  
(Dresden Nuclear Power Station, )  
Unit 1)

Docket No. 50-10

REQUEST FOR PREPARATION  
OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Notice is hereby given that by petition of March 19, 1979, addressed to the Chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, among others, Kay Drey of University City, Missouri, requested that an Environmental Impact Statement be prepared on the proposed decontamination experiments at the Dresden Nuclear Power Station, located in Grundy County, Illinois, which are designed to flush radioactive corrosion products from portions of the facility's piping. The petition is being treated as a request for action under 10 CFR 2.206 of the Commission's regulations, and accordingly, action will be taken on the petition within a reasonable time.

A copy of the request is available for inspection in the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, N. W., Washington, D. C. 20555, and at the local public document room for the Dresden Nuclear Power Station, located at Morris Public Library, 604 Liberty Street, Morris, Illinois 60451.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



Roger S. Boyd, Acting Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland,  
this 21<sup>st</sup> day of April, 1979.

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