



Commonwealth Edison

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April 15, 1980

Mr. Harold R. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Subject: LaSalle County Station Unit 1
Licensing Review Schedule
NRC Docket No. 50-373

Reference (a): D. L. Peoples letter to D. G. Eisenhut dated
April 15, 1980

Dear Mr. Denton:

The purpose of this letter is to solicit your guidance on the approach required to complete the safety evaluation by the NRC Staff of LaSalle County Unit 1. The scheduled fuel loading date for that unit is September 30, 1980. The NRC Forecast Panel audit of the operational readiness of LaSalle County Unit 1 resulted in the NRC representatives concluding that Unit 1 would be ready to load fuel in November, 1980. Both the Commonwealth Edison projection and the NRC forecast mandate an expeditious reallocation of NRC Staff resources to this project to minimize the impact of the license review on the availability of Unit 1 for fuel loading and low power testing.

Admittedly there remain many pre-TMI issues open on the LaSalle County docket. It is our opinion that substantially all of these items have been addressed in the six (6) FSAR amendments that have been submitted between March, 1979 and March, 1980. Events beyond our control have drained the Staff's resources to the point that most of the material submitted on our docket has gone unreviewed during this time period.

We understand the resource allocation problem that Three Mile Island and its subsequent investigation has created. Furthermore, we recognize that the now ongoing reorganization of your staff may in the short term complicate further our previous channels of communication. However, we stand ready to provide whatever assistance is required to support the review of the LaSalle County docket.

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In the area of pre-TMI issues we are participating with other BWR Near Term Operating License plants (including Zimmer Station) and General Electric in a reassessment of all BWR issues now open on our dockets. A meeting has been scheduled for early May, 1980 with Messrs. D. Eisenhut and D. Ross of your Staff to discuss the utility of such an effort. In addition, Commonwealth Edison has undertaken to assure appropriate system, personnel and procedural changes at LaSalle County Station to satisfy all the NUREG-0578, "Short Term Lessons Learned". The program for implementing this commitment has been docketed in Reference (a). Furthermore, a concerted effort is being made to monitor the development of the NUREG-0660 NTOL Action Plan to assure compliance with the final guidance of that Action Plan as it applies to LaSalle County Unit 1. As you are aware, Commonwealth Edison has been and will continue to be fully committed to implementing an appropriate response to the lessons learned from TMI. The program of implementation on our operating units, acknowledged by you for its responsiveness, is testament to that commitment.

The operation in 1980 of LaSalle County Unit 1, safely and reliably, is of paramount importance both to Commonwealth Edison and the eight million people in Northern Illinois whom we serve. Therefore, we would be happy to discuss this matter with you at your convenience. As was stated earlier, any guidance you may be able to offer on how to facilitate resumption in earnest and completion of the LaSalle County review would be greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,


D. L. Peoples
Director of
Nuclear Licensing

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