



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

LOCAL PDR

June 19, 1980

Docket No. 50-10

Mr. Robert Goldsmith, Esq.  
Citizens for a Better Environment  
59 E. Van Buren Street  
Suite 1600  
Chicago, Illinois 60605

Dear Mr. Goldsmith:

This is in response to your letters dated March 19, 1980 and April 14, 1980. In your March letter you requested our response to five questions. Your questions and our response to them are as follows.

QUESTION 1

When will the NRC respond to Kay Drey's petition?

ANSWER

The Director of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation has determined that an environmental impact statement should be prepared to evaluate the impact of the proposed action on the quality of the human environment. Both you and Ms. Drey were notified of that decision by telephone on May 16 by Mr. Paul O'Connor of my staff. The "Directors Decision Under 10 CFR 2.206" is being prepared and you will receive a copy as soon as it is available. A copy of our environmental impact statement is enclosed for your information.

QUESTION 2a

If no Environmental Impact Statement is prepared will the NRC publish an environmental appraisal?

ANSWER

As indicated above, an environmental impact statement was prepared.

QUESTION 2b

If an environmental appraisal and negative declaration is issued, will there be a public comment period? If so when?

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ANSWER

We have decided to publish an environmental impact statement (EIS) for this issue. There will be a 45 day public comment period that will begin on the date that the notice announcing the statement's availability is published in the Federal Register.

QUESTION 3

If the NRC decides not to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement, will Commonwealth Edison Company (and/or a subsidiary) be immediately authorized to go ahead with the decontamination procedure? If not immediately authorized when can Edison begin the procedure?

ANSWER

To the maximum extent practicable, the amendment authorizing the decontamination of the Dresden Unit 1 primary cooling system will not be issued until 90 days after the date of issuance of the Draft Environmental Statement or 30 days after the issuance of the Final Environmental Statement, whichever is later.

QUESTION 4

Under what specific regulation is the NRC acting with regard to the decontamination?

ANSWER

Section 50.59 of Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations states that the holder of a license authorizing operation of a utilization facility who desires to make a change in the facility as described in the safety analysis report, which involves a change in technical specifications, shall submit an application for amendment to his license pursuant to 50.90. Commonwealth Edison has identified two technical specifications changes and has requested a license amendment as described below.

QUESTION 5

Does the proposed decontamination at Dresden 1 require a proceeding to revise, modify or amend Edison's license?

ANSWER

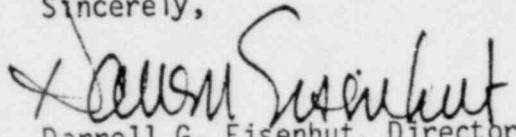
Commonwealth Edison has identified two technical specification changes that are required to allow the decontamination to proceed. These technical specification changes were requested by a Commonwealth Edison Company letter dated November 14, 1979.

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The technical specification changes requested involve 1) the deletion of a requirement for primary containment integrity during chemical cleaning of the primary system and 2) the exclusion of the radioactive liquid storage tanks within the seismically qualified chemical cleaning building from the 90 curie limit established for above grade tanks at Dresden Station.

Your april 14, 1980 letter to the Director of Nuclear Reactor Regulation requested that NRC notify Citizens for a Better Environment in the event that NRC decides not to do an EIS. We have already notified you by phone that we will do an EIS and will provide you with a copy for your comments.

Sincerely,

  
Darrell G. Eisenhut, Director  
Division of Licensing

Enclosure:  
Draft Environmental  
Statement (NUREG-0686)