



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

Enclosure

EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
PLANT SYSTEMS BRANCH
FIRE BRIGADE RESPONSES
LASALLE COUNTY STATION
DOCKET NOS. 50-373 AND 50-374

1.0 INTRODUCTION

During a 1987 inspection at the LaSalle County Station, Region III staff identified a deviation from the licensee's commitment to conform with NRC fire protection guidelines pertaining to the plant fire brigade. Specifically, the licensee does not dispatch the fire brigade upon receipt of a fire alarm in the control room. By letters dated April 28 and July 11, 1989, the licensee proposed a course of action to resolve this issue.

2.0 DISCUSSION

The licensee has identified all "fire zones" containing safe shutdown related cables and components and has proposed to dispatch the fire brigade upon receipt of a fire alarm in the control room for any zone or sub zone which is considered "vulnerable." Vulnerability is defined as a period of time when the alternate safe shutdown method which is "independent" of that location is unavailable. The state of vulnerability does not include such occasions when the alternate shutdown systems are unavailable for planned maintenance and surveillance testing."

3.0 EVALUATION

The staff's principal concern with the licensee's approach to this issue is that there exists areas of the plant which contain cables and components of the primary and alternate means of post-fire safe shutdown which are potentially vulnerable to fire damage due to prolonged fire brigade response. The licensee's proposals, as contained in the July 11, 1989 letter, represent a distinct improvement over past practice in that areas defined as being vulnerable (due to unexpectedly inoperable systems) will receive immediate brigade response.

Staff criteria related to this issue is delineated in a June 20, 1977 memorandum entitled: "Nuclear Plant Fire Protection Functional Responsibilities, Administrative Controls and Quality Assurance." It stipulates that fire brigades should be dispatched immediately upon receipt of a fire alarm in the control room. Historically, however, the staff has tacitly accepted sending an operator to an area to confirm the presence of a fire before the fire brigade is sent. To take a different position at this time would represent a backfit. Nevertheless, the staff intends to revisit this issue in conjunction with the Individual Plant Examinations conducted in conjunction with NRC's Severe Accident Policy.

3.0 CONCLUSION

Based on the above evaluation, the staff considers the licensee's proposals to resolve this issue to be sufficient. Therefore, this issue should be considered closed.

5520 NAME: LaSalle TACs 73786/7

November 6, 1989

Docket Nos. 50-373 and 50-374

Mr. Thomas J. Kovach
Nuclear Licensing Manager
Commonwealth Edison Company
Post Office Box 767
Chicago, Illinois 60690

Dear Mr. Kovach:

SUBJECT: SAFETY EVALUATION FOR FIRE BRIGADE RESPONSE ISSUE - LASALLE
UNITS 1 and 2 (TAC NOS. 73786 and 73787)

This letter is to forward the enclosed Safety Evaluation associated with your proposal to resolve an issue concerning fire brigade responses that resulted from a Region III inspection at LaSalle. This Safety Evaluation relates to your letter dated July 11, 1988. As requested by Region III, we have reviewed this information and conclude that although your proposal does not completely conform with our guidelines, your response is adequate to close this issue.

If you have questions or comments, please contact me at (301) 492-1381.

Sincerely,

Paul Shemarski FOR

John C. Bradfute, Project Manager
Project Directorate III-2
Division of Reactor Projects - III,
IV, V and Special Projects

Enclosure:

cc: w/enc1.: See next page

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Mr. Thomas J. Kovach
Commonwealth Edison Company

LaSalle County Nuclear Power Station
Units 1 & 2

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