

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. STN 50-454, STN 50-455]
Commonwealth Edison Co.
(Byron Station, Units 1 & 2)

Notice of Issuance of Director's Decision
Under 10 CFR 2.206 (DD-81- 5)

By petition dated November 21, 1980, the Rockford League of Women Voters requested that the Director of Nuclear Reactor Regulation take several actions with respect to the Commonwealth Edison Company's Byron Station. Upon consideration of the petition, I have determined, in accordance with 10 CFR 2.206, to deny the petition.

Copies of the "Director's Decision Under 10 CFR 2.206" which fully discusses the reasons for this decision are available for inspection in the Commission's Public Document Room at 1717 H Street, N. W., Washington, D. C. 20555, and in the local public document room at the Bryon Public Library, Third and Washington Streets, Byron, Illinois 61010.

A copy of this decision will also be filed with the Secretary for the Commission's review in accordance with 10 CFR 2.206(c).

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland, this ^{7th} day of May 1981.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Harold R. Denton

Harold R. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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

DATE: 8/1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman Hendrie
Commissioner Gilinsky
Commissioner Bradford
Commissioner Ahearne

FROM: William J. Dircks, Executive Director for Operations

SUBJECT: BYRON STATION UNITS 1 AND 2 QUALITY ASSURANCE PROGRAM
(SECY 81-56)

On November 21, 1980, the Rockford League of Women Voters filed a request pursuant to 10 CFR 2.206 and 2.202 (petition) seeking that the Director, Office of AER, take certain actions with respect to the Byron Nuclear Power Station. On December 22, 1980, the Director partially denied that portion of the petition seeking an immediate halt to construction. The Commission, during its review under 10 CFR 2.206 of this partial denial by the Director, determined that the Director had failed to set forth his evaluation of one of the claims in the petition. The claim not addressed was that the Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC) program at Byron is not being effectively implemented. The Commission also noted the recent issuance by the Director, Region III, of an Immediate Action Letter confirming suspension of work on electrical cable installation.

The Commission directed that the staff provide "its reasoned evaluation of the petitioner's allegations" on the effectiveness of the licensee's QA/QC program at Byron. Attached is an assessment by Region III of the status and effectiveness of the QA/QC program currently in effect at the Byron site. In summary, the assessment states that from mid-1979 to date, the Byron QA/QC program generally has been effective, and that the recent Immediate Action Letter represents a specific action with respect to a limited scope of work (electrical cable and cable support installation) by a single contractor. The limited scope of the problem makes limited stop-work the most appropriate technique to achieve corrective action. In the opinion of the staff, there is no necessity for and no value to a total suspension of work at the Byron site. It should be noted that the licensee has already met its commitments under the Immediate Action Letter, and that constraint has now been lifted.

The staff has also examined the affidavit accompanying the League's petition which claimed that the Byron QA/QC program was not effective. Section 2 of the evaluation addresses the affidavit. In the staff's judgment, the information presented does not support the allegation made.

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