



Commonwealth Edison

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February 9, 1981

Mr. B.J. Youngblood, Chief
Licensing Branch 1
Division of Licensing
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Subject: LaSalle County Station Units 1 & 2, Fuel Element-Water
Side Corrosion, NRC Docket Nos 50-373/374
LOD 81-40-11

Dear Mr. Youngblood:

The issue of fuel element water-side corrosion has been reviewed by the NRC and General Electric Company generically. As indicated in a generic meeting in December, 1979, the failures identified on one operating BWR facility appear to have been associated with a metallic incursion in the feedwater. A review of the issue was also conducted by the BWR Licensing Review Group and a group position submitted to the NRC Staff in December, 1981 which discusses the resolution bases for each BWR NTOL facility.

It was concluded in that LRG working paper, based on the studies conducted by GE and observations made on operating BWR facilities, that plants with non-copper bearing main condensor tubes are not expected to experience the clad perforations resulting from the subject water side corrosion. The LaSalle County units do not have copper bearing condensers and, therefore, are not expected to experience the problem.

It is judged that this discussion will resolve any questions your staff may have had related to the adequacy of the LaSalle County Fuel element design. A copy of the LRG Position Paper on water-side corrosion is attached for your information.

If there are any further questions in this regard, please direct them to this office.

Very truly yours,

L.O. DelGeorge
Nuclear Licensing Administrator

Attachment

cc: NRC Resident Inspector - LSCS

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LRG WORKING PAPER

12/2/80

Issue CPB-4 Water Side Corrosion

The applicant has not addressed the potential for fuel corrosion failure similar to that which occurred at the Vermont Yankee Plant.

Position Unique

As indicated in the General Electric presentation given to the NRC in December 1979, the failures appeared to be associated with a metallic incursion in the feedwater. This event has occurred only once in the BWR operating history and is unlikely to occur.

1. Plants with non-copper bearing main condensor tubes are not expected to experience the clad perforations of this concern. La Salle, Shoreham and Susquehanna do not have copper bearing condensers.
2. Plants with adequately designed filters demineralizers are not expected to experience the clad perforations of this concern even with copper bearing condensor tubes. Zimmer, Fermi 2 and Hanford 2 are designed accordingly.

Reference

<u>LCSC</u>	<u>ZPS</u>	<u>SNPS</u>	<u>EF-2</u>	<u>WNP-2</u>	<u>SSES</u>
Open	-	-	-	-	-