



**Commonwealth Edison**

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January 10, 1983

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

Subject: Byron Station Units 1 and 2  
Greenhouse Heating  
NRC Docket Nos. 50-454 and 50-455

Dear Mr. Denton:

This letter is to inform the Nuclear Regulatory Commission of preliminary discussions that are being held with prospective greenhouse operators who are interested in locating facilities on our Byron site. The plan being discussed envisions condenser cooling water being diverted to greenhouses having a total area of from 5 to 30 acres. Heat would be extracted to warm the buildings and the water returned to the cooling water tower basin. This water would be in a closed system with a maximum flow estimated to be 600 gpm per acre of greenhouse.

The location of the greenhouses would be on site approximately 2000 feet from the reactors somewhere in the southeast quadrant. If the greenhouses were to be located west of German Church Road, they would be in the exclusion area. In that case, any agreement with the greenhouse operators would include provisions to assure that Commonwealth Edison would continue to control activities in that area to the extent required by 10 CFR 100.

The intended products to be grown in the greenhouses are potted plants and flowers (cut), although food products such as lettuce and tomatoes may be grown in the future.

The personnel requirement for a 5 acre greenhouse is estimated to be 30 while a twenty acre greenhouse would require 100. The greenhouse would be manned 24 hours per day.

On the basis of the investigations to date, there do not appear to be any significant adverse environmental impacts or potential safety hazards associated with this operation. The greenhouse operation is compatible with the general land use in the area, which is agricultural.

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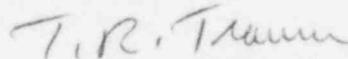
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This project is still in the discussion stage. A specific proposal will probably not be formulated for several months. Authorization to incorporate the greenhouse heating loop into the Byron design is not being requested in the initial licensing of the plant. It will most likely be handled as a plant modification in accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR 50.59. Our evaluation of the safety and environmental aspects of this project will be reviewed with the NRC before construction begins. If necessary, formal review and approval would be sought. In any case, the FSAR and Environmental Report will be appropriately revised if such a project is undertaken.

Please direct any questions regarding this matter to this office.

Very truly yours,



T. R. Trautman  
Nuclear Licensing Administrator

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