



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION III
799 ROOSEVELT ROAD
GLEN ELLYN, ILLINOIS 60137

December 29, 1982

Docket No. 50-456
Docket No. 50-457

Commonwealth Edison Company
ATTN: Mr. Cordell Reed
Vice President
Post Office Box 767
Chicago, IL 60690

Gentlemen:

This refers to the management meeting held by Mr. A. B. Davis and other NRC representatives with you and other representatives of Commonwealth Edison Company on May 18, 1982, to review the results of the NRC's assessment of the utility's regulatory performance at the Braidwood Nuclear Generating Station in accordance with NRC Manual Chapter 0516, "Systematic Assessment of Licensee Performance (SALP)," covering the period July 1, 1980 through December 31, 1981.

A preliminary copy of the SALP Report was provided for your review in advance of our meeting. The final SALP Report including the SALP Board Chairman's letter to you and your written comments is enclosed.

In addition to the assessments and recommendations made by the SALP Board contained in the enclosed SALP Report, I wish to give you my overall observations and assessment relative to the utility's regulatory performance during the assessment period:

1. With respect to the SALP ratings, the Regional SALP Board views the Category 2 rating as the rating which it anticipates most licensees will achieve. A Category 1 rating is given only for superior performance and there is reasonable expectation that it will continue. A Category 3 rating is given when the licensee's performance is considered minimally acceptable and identified weaknesses warrant special licensee management and NRC attention.

2. It is my view that the overall regulatory performance of the Commonwealth Edison Company at the Braidwood Nuclear Station was satisfactory during the assessment period; however, management needs to focus attention on ensuring that the significance of noncomformance is being properly assessed.

We have reviewed your letter of June 2, 1982, and Enclosure 1 which forward comments on the SALP Report. Relative to your desire for more definitive assessment standards, there is not much to add that has not already been discussed in our meetings concerning the present SALP process. You were furnished a copy of NRC Manual Chapter 0516 which describes the SALP criteria and guidance. The SALP Board reviews the integrated collection of data and observations in an attempt to assure a fair assessment and consistent application of the criteria. We acknowledge that the process may not adequately assess all the attributes of a licensee and that some of the guidance may be applied subjectively. The SALP process is not intended to be purely consultive to the extent to point out what must be done to rise above a satisfactory level. The SALP process attempts to categorize management's regulatory performance during the rating period from the NRC perspective to help set priorities on our efforts and resources and provide guidance to licensee management. These findings are shared with licensees in an effort to help them improve their performance in areas where we have identified concerns.

In reviewing your comments on our assessment of Quality Assurance, Section IV.9., we have concluded that the analysis did focus on only a portion and not a significant part of the QA Program. However, based on the problems that were noted we feel that the only acceptable answer would be to change the rating from a Category 3 to a not rated category.

As you well know significant QA problems have been the subject of two Enforcement Conferences since this analysis and will be discussed further during our review of SALP 3.

In accordance with Section 2.700 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," Part 2, Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, a copy of this letter and the SALP Report will be placed in the NRC's Public Document Room.

No reply to this letter is required; however, should you have any questions concerning these matters, we will be pleased to discuss them with you.

Sincerely,

Original signed by
James G. Keppler
James G. Keppler
Regional Administrator

Enclosure: SALP Reports
No. 50-456/82-02 and
No. 50-457/82-02

cc w/encl:
Louis O. DelGeorge, Director
of Nuclear Licensing
V. I. Schlosser, Project
Manager
R. Cosaro, Project
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Rel for
Tambling/sv
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