

APR 18 1994

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Docket No. 50-456  
License No. NPF-72

Commonwealth Edison Company  
ATTN: S. Berg, Site Vice President  
Braidwood Station  
RR #1, Box 79, 6th Floor  
Braceville, IL 60407

Dear Mr. Berg:

This refers to the inspection conducted by Ms. V. P. Lougheed of this office on March 28 through 31, 1994. The inspection included a review of activities authorized for your Braidwood facility. At the conclusion of the inspection, the findings were discussed with those members of your staff identified in the enclosed report.

This inspection, as identified in the report, focused on the events surrounding the second periodic Unit 1 containment integrated leak rate test. Within this area, the inspection consisted of selective examinations of procedures and representative records, interviews with personnel, and observation of activities in progress.

The Unit 1 integrated leak test is considered an as-found failure, based on the results of the March 10-12 test. Because the first periodic integrated leak rate test, conducted in 1991, was also judged a failure, this second failure requires you, in accordance with Technical Specification 4.6.1.2.b, to perform an integrated leak rate test every 18 months until two consecutive integrated leak rate tests meet the acceptance criteria.

No violations of NRC requirements were identified during the inspection; however, two concerns were identified. The first item of concern involved the extraordinarily long "stabilization" period required after the second pressurization and before the test officially began. The cause of the failure of conditions to stabilize in a reasonable time was not explained satisfactorily.

The second item of concern involved the potential liner leakage identified towards the end of test. Although the as-left leakage rate was acceptable, and had apparently not changed over the last two operating cycles, liner leakage is considered unusual and unpredictable. You should therefore vigorously pursue efforts to identify and correct sources of liner leakage, especially in light of the need to improve the overall ILRT test performance.

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APR 18 1994

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the Commission's regulations, a copy of this letter and the enclosed inspection report will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

We will gladly discuss any questions you have concerning this inspection.

Sincerely,  
Original signed by  
B. L. Jorgensen

Bruce L. Jorgensen, Chief  
Reactor Projects Section 1A

Enclosure:  
Inspection Report  
No. 50-456/94011(DRP)

cc w/enclosure:  
L. O. DelGeorge, Vice President, Nuclear  
Oversight and Regulatory Services  
K. Kofron, Station Manager  
K. Bartes, Regulatory  
Assurance Supervisor  
D. Farrar, Nuclear Regulatory  
Services Manager  
OC/LFDCB  
Resident Inspectors, Byron,  
Braidwood, Zion  
Richard Hubbard  
Nathan Schloss, Economist Public  
Utilities Division  
Licensing Project Mgr., NRR  
State Liaison Officer  
Chairman, Illinois Commerce  
Commission  
S. Stein, SRS

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Landsman  
4-15-94

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Jorgensen