

FEB - 7 1991

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

Commonwealth Edison Company
ATTN: Mr. Cordell Reed
Senior Vice President
Opus West III
1400 Opus Place
Downers Grove, IL 60515

Gentlemen:

This letter is our response to your request that we modify the schedule for requalification examinations planned for the Braidwood Station in April 1991.

Members of your Braidwood staff met with members of my staff on December 18, 1990, to present a basis for changing our plans to administer requalification examinations. Our initial schedule for the weeks of April 1 and 8, 1991, was not consistent with your crew rotation. Following the December meeting we mutually agreed to move the examination to the weeks of April 8 and 15, which is consistent with Braidwood crew rotation for training.

During a second meeting on January 23, 1991, further concerns were expressed by Braidwood representatives regarding the week of April 15 and their apprehension related to potential operator performance problems on the simulator portion of the requalification exam. Your staff was concerned that the operators scheduled for the second week of the exam would not have the benefit of any recent simulator training. This led us to conclude that your practice of administering training on the simulator for one week immediately prior to the requalification exam weighs heavily on their confidence for a successful exam and may bolster an artificially high crew performance level. We understand that the operators in the second week of our examination would be evaluated under different conditions than the first group and, as a result, may be subjected to a level of stress significantly higher than those examined during the first week.

9102130050 910207
PDR ADOCK 05000456
V PDR

110
1842

In view of the extenuating circumstances we agree to change our schedule in this instance. We presently plan to conduct the exam during the weeks of April 8 and April 22, 1991. Future NRC requalification examinations should be scheduled to preclude training that could potentially enhance the operators' performance in the short term. It is our intent to evaluate operators during the course of the requalification cycle at a point where the performance of operators is at a normal level.

Any questions in this regard may be addressed to Geoffrey C. Wright at (708) 790-5695 or Thomas M. Burdick at (708) 790-5566.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY T. O. MARTIN

T. O. Martin, Director
Division of Reactor Safety

cc: M. Wallace, Vice President,
PWR Operations
T. Kovach, Nuclear
Licensing Manager
A. Checca, Nuclear
Licensing Administrator
K. Kofron, Station Manager
D. Miller, Regulatory
Assurance Supervisor
DCD/DCB (RIDS)
OC/LFDCB
Resident Inspectors, Byron,
Braidwood, Zion
D. W. Cassel, Jr., Esq.
Richard Hubbard
J. W. McCaffrey, Chief, Public
Utilities Division
Stephen P. Sands, LPM, NRR
Robert Newmann, Office of Public
Counsel, State of Illinois Center

RIII
Burdick/cg
02/7/91

RIII
Wright
02/7/91

RIII
Martin
02/7/91