

IEO1

JUN 17 1994

Docket Nos. 50-454; 50-455
License Nos. NPF-37; NPF-66

Commonwealth Edison Company
ATTN: Mr. M. J. Wallace
Vice President and
Chief Nuclear Officer
Executive Towers West III
1400 Opus Place, Suite 500
Downers Grove, IL 60515

Dear Mr. Wallace:

This refers to the special safety inspection conducted by Mr. H. Peterson of this office from April 19 through May 31, 1994. The inspection involved the further review of a previously identified Unresolved Item (454/455-94007-01(DRP)) concerning the status and condition of the auxiliary feedwater tunnel flood seal openings at your Byron Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2. At the conclusion of the inspection, the findings were discussed with those members of your staff identified in the enclosed report.

The inspection consisted of observations, interviews with personnel, and the selective examination of procedures and representative records including the associated Licensee Event Report (94-003), the design basis requirements, and your proposed corrective actions.

Based on the results of this inspection, certain of your activities appeared to be in violation of NRC requirements, as described in the enclosed Notice of Violation (Notice). This violation is of concern because of the fundamental importance attached to maintaining design safety features. A design safety feature provided at your Byron plant, for protecting auxiliary feedwater system valves from flooding and from high energy line breaks, was routinely compromised for various lengths of time over a period of several years. Failure to maintain current knowledge of the design basis, challenge proposed configuration or other changes against design requirements, and use all available tools to recognize when there is a design-related impact, are additional concerns.

You are required to respond to this letter and should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice when preparing your response. In your response, you should document the specific actions taken and any additional actions you plan to prevent recurrence. After reviewing your response to this Notice, including your proposed corrective actions and the results of future inspections, the NRC will determine whether further NRC enforcement action is necessary to ensure compliance with NRC regulatory requirements.

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In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the Commission's regulations, a copy of this letter, the enclosures, and your response to this letter will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

The responses directed by this letter and the accompanying Notice are not subject to the clearance procedures of the Office of Management and Budget as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, PL 96-511.

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

Sincerely,

Original Signed by
John A. Zwolinski
Acting Director
Division of Reactor Projects

Enclosures:

- 1. Notice of Violation
- 2. Inspection Reports
 - No. 50-454/94011(DRP);
 - No. 50-455/94011(DRP)

See Attached Distribution

RIII
Hilton

RIII
Jorgensen
6-16-94

RIII
DeFayette
6/16/94

RIII
LaTorre
6/16/94

RIII
Zwolinski

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cc w/enclosures:

L.O. DelGeorge, Vice President,
Nuclear Oversight and Regulatory Services
G. Schwartz, Station Manager
D. Brindle, Regulatory Assurance
Supervisor
D. Farrar, Nuclear Regulatory
Services Manager
OC/LFDCB
Resident Inspectors, Byron,
Braidwood, Zion
Richard Hubbard
Nathan Schloss, Economist
Office of the Attorney General
Licensing Project Manager, NRR
State Liaison Officer, Wisconsin
State Liaison Officer
Chairman, Illinois Commerce
Commission
S. Stein, SRS

bcc: PUBLIC (IE01)