

Docket File



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

March 6, 1992

Docket Nos. 50-373
and 50-374

Mr. Thomas J. Kovach
Nuclear Licensing Manager
Commonwealth Edison Company-Suite 300
OPUS West III
1400 OPUS Place
Downers Grove, Illinois 60515

Dear Mr. Kovach:

SUBJECT: SAFETY EVALUATION OF THE LASALLE COUNTY STATION RESPONSE TO THE
STATION BLACKOUT RULE (TAC NOS. M68559 AND M68560)

The station blackout (SBO) rule requires licensees to submit information as defined in 10 CFR 50.63 and to provide a plan and schedule for conformance to the SBO rule. The Commonwealth Edison Company (CECo, the licensee) provided responses to the SBO rule regarding the LaSalle County Station, Units 1 and 2, by letters from M. H. Richter on April 17, 1989, March 30, 1990, and June 22, 1990, to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), Document Control Desk. The licensee provided responses to the NRC questions by a letter from Peter L. Piet, dated September 23, 1991.

The licensee's responses were reviewed by the NRC staff and by Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) under contract to the NRC. The results of the review are documented in the enclosed Safety Evaluation (SE, Enclosure 1) and the SAIC Technical Evaluation Report (TER) SAIC-91-1268 "LASALLE COUNTY STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2, STATION BLACKOUT EVALUATION," dated December 20, 1991 (Attachment 1 to Enclosure 1).

The licensee calculated a minimum acceptable SBO duration of 4 hours for the LaSalle County Station. The licensee submitted its initial and revised response in the SBO generic response format. Based on our review of these responses and subsequent submittals, we find, contingent upon the satisfactory resolution of the recommendations presented in this SE, that the design of the LaSalle County Station conforms with the SBO rule, the guidance of Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.155, Nuclear Management and Resources Council (NUMARC) 87-00, and NUMARC 87-00 Supplemental Questions/Answers and Major Assumptions, dated December 27, 1989 (issued to the industry by NUMARC on January 4, 1990). The licensee should submit, within 60 days of receipt of this SE, confirmation of the resolution of these recommendations and present a schedule for their implementation in accordance with 10 CFR 50.63(c)(4).

In addition, the following areas may require follow-up inspection by the NRC to verify that the implementation of any modifications and the supporting documentation which the licensee may propose as a result of this evaluation, are adequate to meet the SBO Rule. The staff is developing guidance for this follow-up inspection to verify the following:

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- a. Hardware and procedural modifications,
- b. SBO procedures in accordance with RG 1.155, Position 3.4, and NUMARC 87-00, Section 4,
- c. Operator staffing and training to follow the identified actions in the procedures,
- d. EDG reliability program meets, as a minimum, the guidelines of RG 1.155,
- e. Equipment and components required to cope with an SBO are incorporated in a QA program that meets the guidance of RG 1.155, Appendix A, and
- f. Actions taken pertaining to the specific recommendations noted in the SE.

The guidance provided on Technical Specifications (TS) for an SBO states that the TS should be consistent with the Interim Commission Policy Statement on Technical Specifications. The staff has taken the position that TS are required for SBO response equipment. However, the question of how specifications for the SBO equipment will be applied is currently being considered generically by the NRC in the context of the Technical Specification Improvement Program and remains an open item at this time. In the interim, the staff expects plant procedures to reflect the appropriate testing and surveillance requirements to ensure the operability of the necessary SBO equipment. If the staff later determines that TS regarding the SBO equipment is warranted, the licensee will be notified of the implementation requirements.

The SE contains six recommendations and requests the licensee to confirm implementation of these recommendations, including a schedule for their completion, within 60 days. Subject to an acceptable resolution of the recommendations identified in the SE, the issue of conformance to the SBO Rule will remain open.

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Sincerely,
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Enclosures:
 Safety Evaluation
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Mr. Thomas J. Kovach
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LaSalle County Station
Unit Nos. 1 and 2

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