

DmB

JUL 10 1984

Docket No. 50-454  
Docket No. 50-455

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

Gentlemen:

Enclosed for your review, prior to our scheduled meeting of July 19, 1984, is the SALP Board Report for the Byron Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2, covering the period January 1, 1983, through April 30, 1984.

Your regulatory performance at the Byron Station was considered to be acceptable during this assessment period. The rating improved from a Category 3 to a Category 2 in four functional areas (safety-related components; support systems; electrical power supply and distribution; quality assurance), but declined from a Category 1 to a Category 2 in one area (licensing activities) and remained at a Category 3 in another area (preoperational testing). Additionally, of two areas rated that were not rated during the last SALP, one (fire protection) was rated a Category 3 and the other (reinspection program) a Category 1. Overall, your regulatory performance showed an improving trend.

In the preoperational testing area, problems which surfaced in the previous SALP period relating to the conduct of preoperational tests were largely corrected following an enforcement conference early in this assessment period. However, toward the end of the period other concerns were identified relating to the adequacy of review of preoperational test results. An overall rating of Category 3 is assigned in this area which is the same rating as was given in the last SALP. Continued high priority and management attention are warranted to assure attention to detail and rigorous analysis during the remaining test results reviews.

The success rate of operators in passing the operator and senior operator license exams was considerably below the national average and was a factor in reducing the rating to a Category 2 in the licensing activities area. We believe the lower success rate was largely due to management's determination to achieve a fuel load date which was unrealistic in terms of plant readiness. We believe such action was not in the best interest of the NRC or Commonwealth Edison Company with regard to optimum utilization of resources. The other factor contributing to the reduced rating in the licensing activities area was the occasional lack of supporting details in submittals made to NRR.

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We recognize that you expended considerable resources during this assessment period in conducting the QC Inspector Reinspection Program at the Byron Station. Substantial management involvement was evident in this effort. Your conduct of the inspections and evaluation of the findings were considered to be of high quality and were the reasons for us assigning a Category 1 to this area.

Your performance in the fire protection area was rated separately for the first time in this SALP. The Category 3 rating reflects our view that there was a lack of concerted management attention to the development and implementation of the fire protection program. We saw no evidence that prior to our involvement you were pursuing a comprehensive evaluation of the fire protection program to assure conformance with FSAR requirements in support of the issuance of an operating license.

While you will have sufficient opportunity to present your comments at the meeting on July 19, 1984, you may also provide written comments within 30 days after the meeting. We will evaluate any written comments and provide you with our conclusions relative to them.

In accordance with Section 2.790 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 at this time; however, should you have any questions concerning the SALP report, we would be pleased to discuss them with you.

Sincerely,

Original signed by  
James G. Keppler

James G. Keppler  
Regional Administrator

Enclosure: SALP Report  
No. 50-454/84-22  
No. 50-455/84-15

c : w/encl:  
See attached distribution list

JUL 10 1984

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07/09/84	7/9		7/9	7/10/84	7/10	7/7/84	7/7/84	7/10/84