



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION III
801 WARRENVILLE ROAD
LISLE, ILLINOIS 60532-4351

November 14, 1995

"Public"

Mr. K. Kaup, Site Vice President
Braidwood Station
Commonwealth Edison Company
RR #1, Box 84
Braceville, IL 60407

Dear Mr. Kaup:

Enclosed for your review is the SALP 13 Report for Braidwood Station covering the period February 20, 1994, through September 30, 1995. This report will be discussed with you at a public meeting to be held at the Braidwood Station Training Center at 9 a.m. (CST) on November 28, 1995. During this meeting you are encouraged to candidly discuss any comments you may have regarding our report.

In accordance with NRC policy, I have reviewed the recommendations resulting from the SALP Board assessment and concur with their ratings. It is my view that your conduct of nuclear activities in connection with the Braidwood facility was good overall as evidenced by generally conservative operating decisions and excellent operator response to plant transients. However, we observed a decline in performance in several key areas this assessment period. Category 2 ratings were assigned in both Operations and Maintenance, areas which were previously rated Category 1. While the Engineering area retained a Category 2 rating, performance declined somewhat from the previous SALP. Plant Support, on the other hand, was rated a Category 1, primarily on the strength of improved radiation protection activities.

The most notable performance decline at Braidwood relates to plant equipment degradation. This includes leakage from numerous safety related pumps and pipe flanges, problems with support equipment such as the hypochlorite system, and degraded service water system heat exchangers. While safety related system reliability has not yet been impacted, without timely, effective action to improve material condition, more significant equipment problems could develop.

Several factors, discernable in operations, maintenance, and engineering organizations, contributed to the decline: a generally high threshold for identifying equipment problems, frequent failure to thoroughly evaluate such problems, weaknesses in interdepartmental communications, and poor craft capability in some areas. The site Quality Verification organization has not been effectively utilized to identify performance trends and problems. In general, a more introspective, proactive approach to identifying and resolving plant equipment and human performance problems is needed.

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K. Kaup

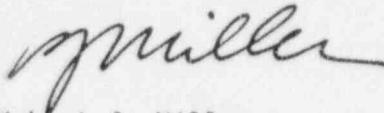
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Some steps were initiated near the end of the assessment period to address these weaknesses. We will closely monitor your improvement efforts to assess their effectiveness.

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, the SALP report, and your response to this letter will be placed in the NRC's Public Document Room.

Should you have any questions concerning the SALP report, we would be pleased to discuss them with you.

Sincerely,



Hubert J. Miller
Regional Administrator

Docket No.: 50-456

Docket No.: 50-457

Enclosure: SALP 13

Report No. 50-456/457/95001

See Attached Distribution

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cc w/enclosure:

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T. Tulon, Station Manager
K. Bartes, Regulatory Assurance
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R. A. Capra, Director, Project Directorate III-2, NRR

D. L. Gamberoni, SALP Program Manager, NRR (2 copies)

DRP Division Directors, All Regions

R. J. Caniano, RIII

M. L. McCormick-Barger, RIII

L. Cox, RIII

TSS, RIII

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Sincerely,

Original signed by
Hubert J. Miller
Hubert J. Miller
Regional Administrator

Docket No.: 50-456

Docket No.: 50-457

Enclosure: SALP 13
Report No. 50-456/457/95001

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