

D&D

APR 24 1992

Docket No. 50-454
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Commonwealth Edison Company
ATTN: Mr. Cordell Reed
Senior Vice President
Opus West III
1400 Opus Place
Downers Grove, IL 60515

Dear Mr. Reed:

The NRC is in the process of conducting operational safeguards response evaluations (OSREs) at nuclear power reactors. I wish to confirm that the Byron Station has been chosen for such a review scheduled for the week of May 19 through 22, 1992.

The primary objective of the OSRE program is to evaluate the readiness of licensees' on-site security forces to respond to an external threat. A focus of these reviews is the priorities established for protection of equipment and the defensive strategies used. These reviews complement NRC's licensing and regional inspection functions.

An OSRE team includes a nuclear systems engineer, reactor safeguards specialists, and at least two U.S. Army Special Forces personnel. Additional assistance is provided by an inspector from the NRC regional office and the NRC resident inspector.

The first day on-site begins with an entrance briefing, which will provide an overview of the team's objectives and anticipated activities for the duration of the visit. Any licensee questions on methodology or other matters are then addressed so that a common understanding can be reached. Also, the suggested schedule for the onsite activities is discussed and key licensee contact persons are identified. It is through these contact persons that arrangements are made for knowledgeable licensee personnel to escort the team members during the review.

After the entrance briefing, the OSRE team takes a general orientation tour of the protected area perimeter. Following the orientation tour the team will meet with appropriate site security, operations, and/or engineering staff to select and walk-down potential sets of targets to be used in response drills and table-top exercises. The team will observe a response drill or drills, which should be conducted using normal drill procedures and participants. Team participation will be limited to scenario selection and drill observation. The team will also conduct several table-top response exercises with response team leaders. Additionally, the team will interview training staff and observe weapons familiarity and proficiency. The team nuclear systems engineer will also want to meet with additional plant operators to assure that security systems are not interfering with safe operation of the plant.

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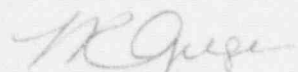
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Please provide appropriate plant personnel support for the OSRE team during the scheduled evaluation. Specifically, security members will require escorts from the security training department, and the team systems engineer will need an individual familiar with safety equipment location and functional capabilities. The team will make every effort to schedule its activities so as to avoid disruption of normal plant operations. The time that various team members spend on-site may vary, but generally will range from six to eight hours per day. Some of this time is expected to be during evening hours.

If you have any questions regarding the conduct of the operational security readiness evaluation program which you wish to have answered prior to the team's visit, please contact David Orrik, Reactor Safeguards Branch at (301) 504-3213, or Mr. Gary L. Pirtle of Region III staff at (708) 790-5640.

Sincerely,



L. Robert Greger, Chief
Reactor Programs Branch

cc: M. Wallace, Vice President, PWR Operations
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