



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

February 7, 1996

50-454

Mr. D. L. Farrar, Manager  
Nuclear Regulatory Services  
Commonwealth Edison Company  
Executive Towers West III  
1400 Opus Place, Suite 500  
Downers Grove, IL 60515

SUBJECT: CONCURRENT SECOND TEN-YEAR INTERVALS FOR THE INSERVICE TESTING  
PROGRAM, BYRON STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2 (TAC NOS. M94182 AND M94183)

Dear Mr. Farrar:

In Commonwealth Edison Company's (ComEd) letter of December 1, 1995, ComEd requested NRC approval to place the Byron, Units 1 and 2, Inservice Testing (IST) Programs on concurrent 120-month intervals. Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), Section 50.55a, "Codes and Standards," requires that licensees establish IST programs to monitor the operational readiness of certain pumps and valves in systems designated as American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Code Class 1, 2, or 3 in accord with the ASME *Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code* (the "Code"). Provisions in Section 50.55a specify that the initial 120-month interval begin on the date of commercial operation of a unit. Section 50.55a(f)(4)(ii) of 10 CFR requires that IST programs be updated to a later edition of the ASME Code for successive 120-month intervals. Section 50.55a(a)(3)(i) of 10 CFR provides that alternatives to the requirements of 10 CFR 50.55a(f) or portions thereof may be used if the proposed alternative would provide an acceptable level of quality and safety.

The Byron, Unit 1, commercial operation date was September 16, 1985, and the Byron, Unit 2, commercial operation date was August 21, 1987. Therefore, the units are on IST intervals that are approximately two years apart. ComEd proposed to begin concurrent intervals for both units on a date that will be within approximately one year of the anniversary date of each unit (i.e., increase the Unit 1 interval and decrease the Unit 2 interval date by approximately one year). Inservice tests are performed quarterly, during cold shutdowns, or during refueling outages; on two year intervals (position indication verification and leakage rate testing); or on five- and ten-year intervals (overpressure protection devices).

The staff has long recognized that there are advantages in placing two similar units at the same site on concurrent intervals, and establishing and implementing the IST program to the same edition of the ASME Code. The plant staff can become more familiar with the requirements that are applicable for both units, the programs can be updated at the same time, and the test schedules can be made generally consistent for similar components. The ASME

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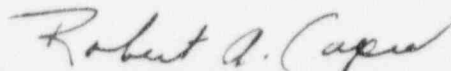
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Code includes provisions for increasing or decreasing an interval for up to 12 months. The anniversary dates of the Byron units are such that the increase and decrease fall within 10 months and 13 months, respectively. Thus, the change to concurrent intervals, with a new interval start date of July 1, 1996, will provide an acceptable level of quality and safety because the inservice testing will be performed on essentially the same schedule as required if the current intervals were maintained (note that Byron, Unit 2, updates to the later edition of the Code earlier than would be required). Pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(a)(3)(i), ComEd is authorized to implement concurrent intervals as requested. The authorization remains effective for the remaining intervals throughout the life of the plants.

Sincerely,



Robert A. Capra, Director  
Project Directorate III-2  
Division of Reactor Projects - III/IV  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. STN 50-454, STN 50-455

D. L. Farrar  
Commonwealth Edison Company

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/s/

Robert A. Capra, Director  
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Division of Reactor Projects - III/IV  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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