

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONCOMMONWEALTH EDISON COMPANYDOCKET NOS. STN 50-454, STN 50-455, STN 50-456, STN 50-457NOTICE OF PARTIAL DENIAL OF AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSES
AND OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has partially denied a request by Commonwealth Edison Company (ComEd, the licensee) for an amendment to Facility Operating License Nos. NPF-37, NPF-62, NPF-72 and NPF-77, issued to the licensee for operation of Byron Station, Units 1 and 2, located in Ogle County, Illinois and Braidwood Station, Units 1 and 2, located in Will County, Illinois. Notice of Consideration of Issuance of this amendment was published in the FEDERAL REGISTER on February 28, 1996 (61 FR 7547).

The purpose of the licensee's amendment request was to revise the Technical Specifications (TS) to replace the existing scheduling requirements for overall integrated and local containment leakage rate testing with a requirement to perform the testing in accordance with 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix J, Option B. As part of its submittal, ComEd proposed to revise the TS regarding the testing of valves with resilient seal material. The scope of the staff's revisions to 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix J, did not include changes to testing of such valves and ComEd's submittal did not include sufficient information for the staff to evaluate the proposed change independently of the others. Therefore, the staff has concluded that that portion of the licensee's request can not be granted. The licensee was notified of the Commission's partial denial of the proposed change by a letter dated April 4, 1996.

By May 10, 1996, the licensee may demand a hearing with respect to the partial denial described above. Any person whose interest may be affected by this proceeding may file a written petition for leave to intervene.

A request for hearing or petition for leave to intervene must be filed with the Secretary of the Commission, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, Attention: Docketing and Services Branch, or may be delivered to the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, by the above date.

A copy of any petitions should also be sent to the Office of the General Counsel, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, and to Michael I. Miller, Esquire; Sidley and Austin, One First National Plaza, Chicago, Illinois 60603, attorney for the licensee.

For further details with respect to this action, see (1) the application for amendment dated December 6, 1995, as supplemented February 27, 1996, and March 28, 1996, and (2) the Commission's letter to the licensee dated April 4, 1996.

These documents are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and at the local public document room located at: for Byron, the Byron Public Library District, 109 N. Franklin, P.O. Box 434, Byron, Illinois 61010; for Braidwood, the Wilmington Public Library, 201 S. Kankakee Street, Wilmington, Illinois 60481.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 4th day of April 1996.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. R. Assa". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "R" and a long, sweeping underline.

Ramin R. Assa, Project Manager
Project Directorate III-2
Division of Reactor Projects - III/IV
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation