



Commonwealth Edison

One First National Plaza, Chicago, Illinois
Address Reply to: Post Office Box 767
Chicago, Illinois 60690

October 11, 1984

Mr. Harold R. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Subject: Byron Generating Station Unit 1
Fire Protection
NRC Docket No. 50-454

Reference (a): June 17, 1983 letter from T. R. Tramm
to H. R. Denton.

Dear Mr. Denton:

In reference (a), Commonwealth Edison committed to install a fire hazards panel containing redundant safe shutdown instrumentation to address NRC concerns regarding the consequences of a fire in the auxiliary electric equipment room or control room. Based on equipment procurement and construction completion schedules projected at that time, it was noted that the Byron Unit 1 panel could not be installed prior to fuel load. We agreed to install the panel as soon as practical, but no later than the end of the first refueling outage.

The NRC documented their acceptance of this schedule in Supplement No. 3 to the Byron SER (November, 1983). When the Byron Unit 1 fuel load schedule changed, the NRC requested that we improve our installation schedule for the panel.

Based on review of equipment delivery schedules, all components will be available by December 31, 1984. All design information necessary for installation of this panel and instrumentation has been issued. Therefore, our installation schedule is revised such that after Byron Unit 1 achieves 50% power, the fire hazards panel will be installed at the first identified outage projected to be two weeks or longer. If no such outage occurs, the panel will be installed at the first refueling outage but in any case not later than September 30, 1986.

We consider interim operation of Byron 1 without this panel to be acceptable based upon: 1) the relatively low likelihood of a damaging fire in either the control room or the auxiliary electric equipment room during the first fuel cycle, (2) the circuits involved

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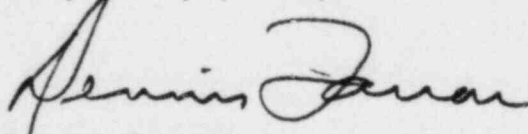
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serve monitoring functions, not control functions and, (3) our commitment to implement a fire watch in the auxiliary electric equipment room and sample reactor coolant boron concentration if source range indication is lost due to a control room fire. These commitments are documented in the Fire Protection Report.

Please address further questions regarding this matter to this office.

One signed original and fifteen copies of this letter are provided for NRC review.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dennis J. Farrar".

D. L. Farrar

Director of Nuclear Licensing

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