



Commonwealth Edison

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February 11, 1985

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

Subject: Byron Generating Station Units 1 and 2
Braidwood Generating Station Units 1 and 2
Source Range Neutron Monitors
NRC Docket Nos. 50-454/455 and 50-456/457

References (a): January 6, 1984 letter from E. D. Swartz
to H. R. Denton.

Dear Mr. Denton:

This letter is provided to clarify our plan to modify the controls for the source range neutron instrumentation at Byron and Braidwood stations. Testing of this modification on Byron 2 is required to satisfy Licensing Condition C.7 of the Byron 1 Operating License, NPF-23.

In reference (a), Commonwealth Edison proposed the relocation of the range and volume controls for the source range neutron instrumentation. These changes were undertaken to resolve a Human Engineering Deficiency (HED 8.4) identified during the Byron/Braidwood Control Room Preliminary Design Assessment (PDA). The range and volume controls for the audio count rate drawer are to be moved from the nuclear instrumentation cabinet to the main control board. This change would make it unnecessary for the reactor operator to rely upon another person to operate those controls during a reactor startup. When this change was proposed, it was recognized that the additional cables could produce an unacceptable level of electrical noise in the output of the source range instrumentation. The modification of the source range instrumentation on Byron 1 and Braidwood 1 and 2 was therefore dependent upon satisfactory completion of the testing of this change at Byron 2. Byron 1 would be modified before startup following the first refueling outage if the Byron 2 test is successful. The Braidwood units would be modified before fuel load.

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H. R. Denton

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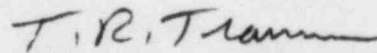
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The Byron 2 testing is being scheduled to support the schedules for installation on the other units. The testing is expected to be performed in late 1985. Adequate time will be available to review the test results with the NRC before either the change is made to the other units or the commencement of fuel loading at Byron 2. If the relocation of these controls produces unacceptable levels of electrical noise, the Byron 2 controls will be returned to the instrumentation cabinets before beginning fuel load.

With this approach to testing, it should be clear that fulfillment of License Condition C.7 in NPF-23 does not require issuance of an operating license for Byron 2.

Please direct further questions regarding this matter to this office.

Very truly yours,



T. R. Tramm
Nuclear Licensing Administrator

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cc: Resident Inspector Byron

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