



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION III
801 WARRENVILLE ROAD
LISLE, ILLINOIS 60532-4351

April 5, 1996

Public

EA 96-070
EA 96-102

Mr. K. Kaup
Site Vice President
Braidwood Station
Commonwealth Edison Company
RR #1, Box 84
Braceville, IL 60407

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT NO. 50-456/96005; 50-457/96005

Dear Mr. Kaup:

This refers to the special inspection conducted on January 23 through March 21, 1996, at the Braidwood facility. The purpose of the inspection was to determine whether activities authorized by the license were conducted safely and in accordance with NRC requirements. At the conclusion of the inspection, the findings were discussed with those members of your staff identified in the enclosed report.

Areas examined during the inspection are identified in the report. Within these areas, the inspection consisted of selective examinations of procedures and representative records, interviews with personnel, and observation of activities in progress.

Based on the results of this inspection, five apparent violations were identified and are being considered for escalated enforcement action in accordance with the "General Statement of Policy and Procedure for NRC Enforcement Action" (Enforcement Policy), NUREG-1600. The apparent violations involved failures to properly control the configuration of safety-related systems, and to correct weaknesses you identified in your methods for configuration control. Accordingly, no Notice of Violation is presently being issued for these inspection findings. In addition, please be advised that the number and characterization apparent violations described in the enclosed report may change as a result of further NRC review.

A predecisional enforcement conference to discuss this apparent violation has been scheduled for 10 a.m. (CDT) on April 26, 1996. The decision to hold a predecisional enforcement conference does not mean that the NRC has determined that a violation has occurred or that enforcement action will be taken. This conference is being held to obtain information to enable the NRC to make an enforcement decision, such as a common understanding of the facts, root causes, missed opportunities to identify the apparent violations sooner, corrective actions, significance of the issues, and the need for lasting and effective corrective actions. In particular, we expect you to address: 1) what corrective actions have been taken to identify and correct programmatic

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K. Kaup

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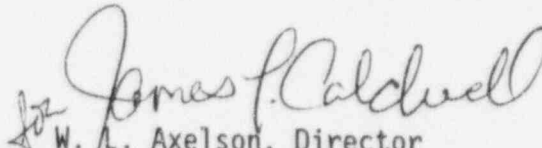
trends in a more timely manner, 2) what were the results of the root cause investigations into the configuration control and out-of-service trend problems, 3) what additional corrective actions were identified as a result of those investigations, and 4) what has been the effectiveness of the corrective actions implemented to date. In addition, this is an opportunity for you to point out any errors in our inspection report and for you to provide any information concerning your perspectives on 1) the severity of the violations, 2) the application of the factors that the NRC considers when it determines the amount of the civil penalty that may be assessed in accordance with Section VI.B.2 of the Enforcement Policy, and 3) any other application of the Enforcement Policy to this case, including exercise of discretion in accordance with Section VII.

You will be advised in separate correspondence of the results of our deliberations on this matter. No response regarding these apparent violations are required at this time.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room (PDR).

We will gladly discuss any questions you have concerning this inspection.

Sincerely,


W. L. Axelson, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket No. 50-456
Docket No. 50-457
License No. NPF-72
License No. NPF-77

Enclosure: Inspection Report
No. 50-456/96005(DRP);
No. 50-457/96005(DRP)

See Attached Distribution

Distribution:

cc w/encl: J. C. Brons, Vice President,
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Sincerely,

/s/J. L. Caldwell for

W. L. Axelson, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

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