



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

May 2, 1996

Docket File
50-456

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: OPERATING INTERVALS BETWEEN EDDY CURRENT INSPECTIONS FOR
CIRCUMFERENTIAL CRACK INDICATIONS IN THE BRAIDWOOD, UNIT 1,
STEAM GENERATOR TUBES (TAC NO. M94111)

Dear Mr. Farrar:

We have reviewed your letters dated February 23 and April 16, 1996, in which you modified a previous commitment made in your letter dated November 16, 1995, regarding the operating interval between Braidwood, Unit 1, steam generator (SG) tube eddy current inspections (ECI). These ECIs are intended, in part, to determine whether there are indications of circumferential cracks in the roll transition zone (RTZ) at the top of the tube sheet (TTS). Your specific proposal in your letter dated April 16, 1996, was to initiate a mid-cycle Braidwood, Unit 1, SG tube inspection for circumferential crack indications no later than October 15, 1996, in contrast with your earlier commitment to conduct this ECI for circumferential crack indications at the TTS after 24 weeks of operation at a T_{hot} temperature greater than 500 degrees Fahrenheit. In light of recent Byron, Unit 1, SG ECI data obtained during its present refueling outage, we find this proposal to modify your original commitment unacceptable. The staff's position on this issue was communicated to you in a telephone conference on April 25, 1996.

Accordingly, we fully anticipate that you will comply with your original commitment as stated in your letter dated November 16, 1995, regarding the interval between Braidwood, Unit 1, SG tube inspections for circumferential cracks, except as modified below.

In the telephone conference cited above, the staff agreed to consider a revised estimate of the actual Braidwood, Unit 1, operating time between the spring and fall 1995 SG tube inspection outages. By letter dated April 29, 1996, you revised this interval between the previous Braidwood, Unit 1, SG tube inspections from 24 weeks to 202 days. We accept this revised estimate. Based on this revised operating interval, and accounting for outage time since the fall of 1995, you estimate that the Braidwood, Unit 1, operating interval, consistent with your original commitment, will end by July 13, 1996.

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D. L. Farrar

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We request that you respond on this matter, confirming your intention, within five business days of the date of this letter. If you have any questions on this matter, please contact M. D. Lynch at (301) 415-3023.

Sincerely,

Original signed by
Elinor G. Adensam

Jack W. Roe, Director
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. STN 50-456

cc w/encl: see next page

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*See previous concurrence

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RFZ 5/21/96

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