

March 10, 1988



Mr. A. Bert Davis Regional Administrator U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission 799 Roosevelt Road Glen Ellyn, IL. 60137

Subject: Braidwood Station Units 1 and 2

Unmanned Firewatches

NRC Docket Nos. 50-456/457

References: (a) February 12, 1988 letter from C.E. Norelius to

C. Reed

Dear Mr. Davis:

Reference (a) informed Commonwealth Edison of an allegation received by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission Region III pertaining to unmanned firewatches and requested that a review of the allegation be performed to determine its safety significance. The results of this review are included in Attachment "A".

Please address any questions concerning this matter to this office.

S. C. Hunsader

Nuclear Licensing Administrator

S. C. Harmaden

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cc: Braidwood Resident Inspector

Stephen Sands

NRC Document Control Desk

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ATTACHMENT "A"

Summary

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At 2053 hours on November 26, 1987, Gust K. Newberg (GKN) supervisory personnel entered the Unit 1 Lower Cable Spreading Rooms (LCSR) and observed the firewatch personnel for Posts 4 and 5 being inattentive to their duties. Posts 4 and 5 are continuous firewatches that were established in accordance with station administrative procedures due to the unavailability of the automatic fire suppression system. The inattentive firewatch personnel were immediately relieved of their duties, informed that their employment was terminated, and instructed to leave the site. The terminated firewatch personnel exited the LCSR at 2055 and 2056, respectively.

The GKN supervisors then instructed the Post 3 firewatch, also stationed in the LCSR, to patrol all three posts until replacements were assigned. The time required to patrol all 3 firewatch posts was approximately five minutes.

At 2123, a continuous firewatch was re-established at Post 4, resulting in that area being subject to the short duration patrol for 28 minutes.

At 2130, the GKN supervisors contacted the Shift Engineer and made him aware of the firewatch situation. Both parties agreed that appropriate immediate corrective actions were in progress.

At 2158, a continuous firewatch was re-established at Post 5. This post was subject to the short-duration patrol for 62 minutes. This slight delay in restoring the Post 5 firewatch is attributable to this incident occurring during a backshift on a holiday weekend, and minimal manpower being available on site.

Actions Taken

Corrective actions to prevent recurrence include:

- A documented training session was conducted with GKN firewatch personnel to re-emphasize the proper conduct of firewatch duties;
- The frequency of unannounced rounds of firewatch posts by GKN supervisors has been increased;
- GKN supervisors have been instructed to obtain replacements prior to relieving firewatches where possible.

Conclusions

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There was no affect on plant or public safety as the permanently installed fire detection system was available to detect a fire. In addition to the five-minute continuous patrol initiated during the event, an hourly firewatch patrol was conducted by Burns Security personnel.

Braidwood Station believes this event was handled in a prudent manner, and that expeditious actions were undertaken to correct the situation.

Documentation associated with this allegation review is contained in Quality First File QF 88-0194. This file is available on site for NRC review.

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