

October 14, 1998

Mr. Oliver D. Kingsley
President, Nuclear Generation Group
Commonwealth Edison Company
ATTN: Regulatory Services
Executive Towers West III
1400 Opus Place, Suite 500
Downers Grove, IL 60515

SUBJECT: NRC PUBLIC MEETING SUMMARY

Dear Mr. Kingsley:

The NRC staff met with Commonwealth Edison and LaSalle County Station management on September 15, 1998. This management meeting was open to public observation. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss experiences and performance during the recent Unit 1 startup and plans for Unit 2 improvements to facilitate its future restart. Enclosure 1 contains the associated meeting summary. Enclosure 2 contains the handout provided to the NRC staff by Commonwealth Edison during the meeting.

In accordance with Section 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," Part 2, Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, a copy of this letter and its enclosures will be placed in NRC's Public Document Room.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Geoffrey E. Grant, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket Nos: 50-373; 50-374
License Nos: NPF-11; NPF-18

Enclosures: 1. Meeting Summary
2. Licensee Meeting Handout

See Attached Distribution:

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**Enclosure 1
Public Meeting Summary
LaSalle County Station**

September 15, 1998 Management Meeting

Summary.

The licensee provided the NRC representatives with a handout (Enclosure 2) and discussed the information contained in the handout during the meeting. The discussion centered around the startup of Unit 1 and the status of activities related to Unit 2. The areas discussed regarding the Unit 1 startup included the power ascension activities, plant material condition, lessons learned from the startup, human performance during startup, and the assessment of LaSalle's performance from the Nuclear Oversight organization. Topics discussed related to Unit 2 included the status of the Unit 2 Restart Plan, the schedule of restart activities, and how the lessons learned from the Unit 1 Restart Plan were being applied to the Unit 2 restart effort.

The licensee specifically provided the following information:

- The licensee discussed Unit 1 startup activities including the various testing evolutions, problems encountered, circumstances related to the manual scram which resulted from a feedwater transient, and other lessons learned related to the operators' response to events.
- The licensee discussed the effectiveness of material condition improvements as demonstrated by experiences during the Unit 1 startup.
- A plant operator discussed his experiences related to plant performance during the startup and power ascension and to the material condition improvements. The operator indicated that the plant operated better than it had in the past and the material condition improvements were effective. The operator also indicated that training, particularly on the simulator, and procedures had also improved.
- The licensee was still concerned with improvements in daily support to operations and believed additional action was necessary to change the culture at LaSalle Station.
- Lessons learned from the Unit 1 startup included:
 - Troubleshooting equipment problems was problematic, although the licensee recognized some successes in this area. The licensee believed improvements were needed in the ability to "fix problems dead."
 - Plant rework resulted from human performance problems, procedure deficiencies, and design issues.

- The on-line maintenance program was problematic, particularly immediately following startup. The licensee determined, through an assessment of the on-line maintenance process at LaSalle Station, that work was needed to improve the process and the licensee generated an action plan.
- Continuous support to the operations organization to resolve issues proved to be successful.
- Human performance at LaSalle was improving although some events occurred that involved problems in this area. The licensee implemented corrective actions to address programmatic aspects of the human performance errors. Configuration control remained an issue of concern and was being addressed by station management.
- Operations performance during the startup was good. The operators conducted the startup in a deliberate and controlled manner. The licensee continued to reinforce the need for operators to demand that the support organizations at LaSalle Station resolve operational problems in a timely manner.
- The scorecard program results indicated that improvement of the line managers in the operations department was warranted. The licensee implemented continuous management oversight prior to and during the startup. The licensee considered this a good tool for reinforcing performance expectations.
- The issues identified by the Nuclear Oversight organization's assessments of plant performance were consistent with the issues addressed by plant management. However, the licensee emphasized the need to continue with the additional management oversight.
- The Unit 2 plans were proceeding, although a schedule had not yet been completed. The plans for separating the Unit 2 activities from Unit 1 activities were partially implemented, primarily in the actual physical separation of Unit 1 from Unit 2.
- Some lessons learned from Unit 1 restart activities included the need to stress quality, particularly in the engineering and design areas.

During the discussion, the NRC staff communicated the following questions or items for consideration:

- The NRC staff further discussed the operators' impressions related to the training program, plant procedures, and the plant response during the startup.
- The NRC staff was interested in the licensee's plans for continuing material condition improvements on Unit 1 while work was being completed on Unit 2. The NRC staff requested that the licensee discuss the backlog of maintenance activities on Unit 1 during a future meeting.
- The NRC staff emphasized the importance of applying lessons learned from the Unit 1 startup activities to the Unit 2 restart efforts. The licensee needed to evaluate material

condition improvements that were not completed on Unit 1, but in retrospect, would be beneficial to complete on Unit 2 to prevent problems during restart or to improve the ability to meet the goal of an uneventful run.

- Broader issues related to the overall performance of LaSalle Station and the status of Unit 2 restart activities should be discussed during future public meetings. Specific topics for potential discussion during the next public meeting include the progress related to the management oversight of operations shift activities, the Unit 1 maintenance backlog status, Unit 1 operating experience over the operating period from startup to the meeting, and the plans for the Unit 2 outage including the scope of work that was planned.

Meeting Attendees

Nuclear Regulatory Commission

- J. Caldwell, Acting Regional Administrator, Region III
- G. Grant, Director, Division of Reactor Projects, Region III
- S. Richards, Director, Project Directorate III-2, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
- R. Lanksbury, Acting Chief, Branch 2, Division of Reactor Projects, Region III
- M. Huber, Senior Resident Inspector, LaSalle, Division of Reactor Projects, Region III
- D. Skay, Project Manager, Project Directorate III-2, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Commonwealth Edison

- O. Kingsley, President, Nuclear Generating Group
- D. Helwig, Senior Vice-President
- S. Perry, Vice-President of Boiling Water Reactor Operations
- J. Benjamin, Vice-President, Nuclear Oversight
- F. Dacimo, Site Vice-President, LaSalle
- T. O'Connor, Station Manager, LaSalle
- D. Farr, Operations Manager, LaSalle Unit 1
- J. Arnould, Operations Manager, LaSalle Unit 2
- G. Heisterman, Maintenance Manager, LaSalle Unit 1
- T. Dobbs, Unit 2 Restart Manager
- W. Riffer, Quality and Safety Assessment Manager, LaSalle
- P. Barnes, Restart Manager, LaSalle

Other attendees from Commonwealth Edison were also present.

ENCLOSURE 2

Licensee Meeting Handout



LaSalle County NRC Public Meeting

September 15, 1998

LaSalle



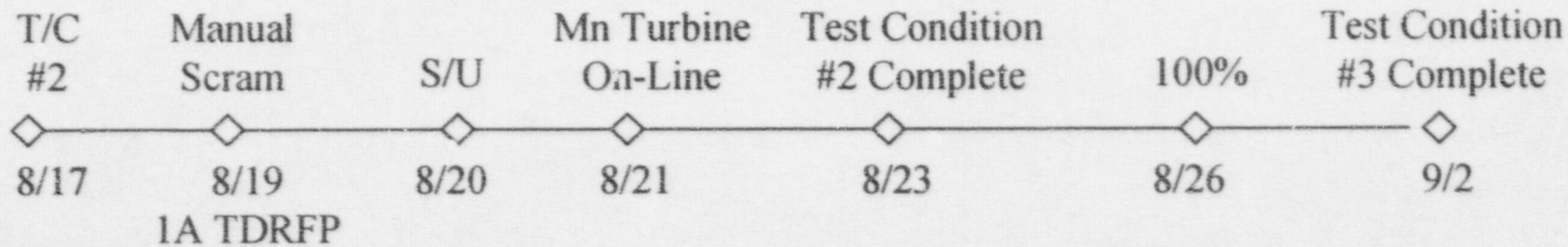
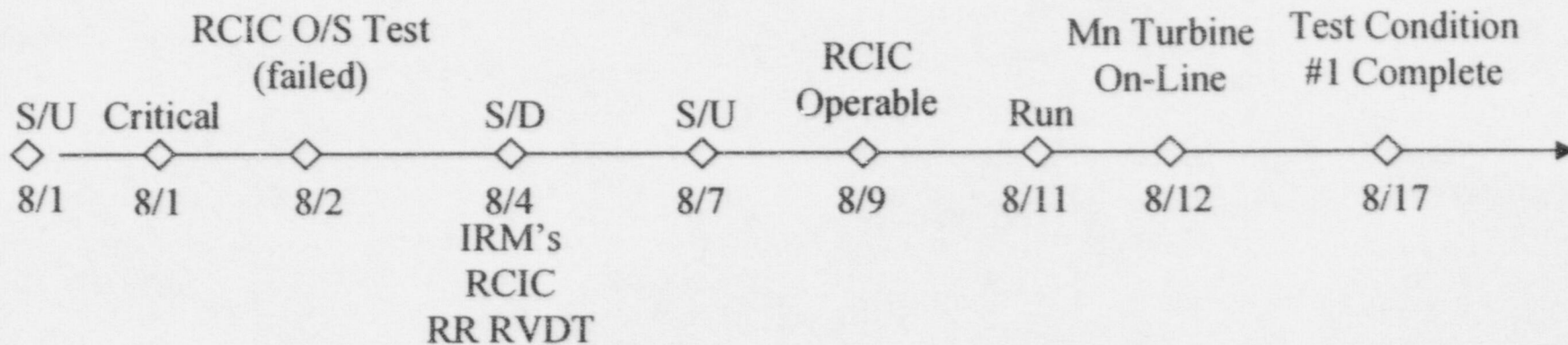


Agenda

- Introduction F. Lacimo
- Unit 1 Restart
 - Power Ascension Time Line D. Farr
 - Material Condition D. Farr
 - Lessons Learned G. Heisterman
 - Human Performance T. O'Connor
 - Nuclear Oversight Review W. Riffer
- Unit 2 Restart
 - Restart Plan T. O'Connor
 - Project/Schedule T. Dobbs
 - Unit 1 Lessons Learned J. Arnould



LaSalle Power Ascension





Unit 1 Power Ascension

- Test Condition 1 (8/1-17/98)
 - RCIC turbine overspeed trip problems
 - Reactor recirc RVDT feedback
 - 8/4 Shutdown to address Intermediate Range Monitors

- Test Condition 2 (8/17-23/98)
 - 8/19 Manual Scram: 1A TDRFP control card failure

- Test Condition 3 (8/23 to 9/2/98)
 - 100% power @ 0606 on 8/26
 - Released to Bulk Power Operations 8/27





Major Material Condition Issues

Reactor Water Cleanup

- System trips at low power
S/U & S/D

Repiped suction, new pumps, isolation valve replacements; no pump cavitation

Electrohydraulic Control

- Repetitive reactor trips (6)

Rebuilt pumps, system flushing, electronic card refurbishment, complete system calibration/valve tuning

Feedwater Level Control

- Feed pump controls fight each other; reliability poor

Refurbished electronics, added oil filters, complete calibrations and tuning, both TDRFP in 3 element auto control





Major Material Condition Issues

Heater Drain Controls

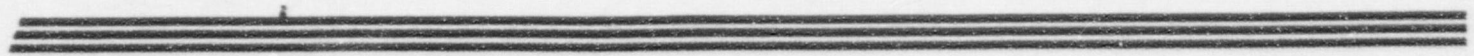
- Heater cascading in normal drain control mode vs. riding on emergency drains

Modified 11 & 12 heater normal/emergency drain valves, transmitter replacements, complete system integrated tuning

Control Room/Aux Electric Room Ventilation

- Cooling and envelope pressurization
- T.S. pressurization requirements not being met

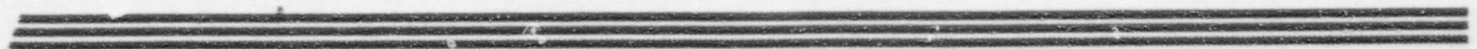
New system: ductwork, supports, insulation, complete flow balancing; system fully meets design/T.S. requirements





Other Material Condition Issues

- > 350 Modifications; > 13,000 Work Requests
- Control Rod Drives - modified CRD FCU cage design to eliminate flow oscillations
- Fuel Pool Cooling - both FC emergency makeup pumps rebuilt with stainless casings
- Condensate/Condensate Booster - rebuilt pumps, new impellers, new min-flow valve control system
- SRM/IRM - replaced cables to eliminate noise
- SBM Switches - > 1100 replaced
- Klockner-Moeller Relays - > 700 inspected; > 150 replaced





Unit 1 Power Ascension

Lessons Learned

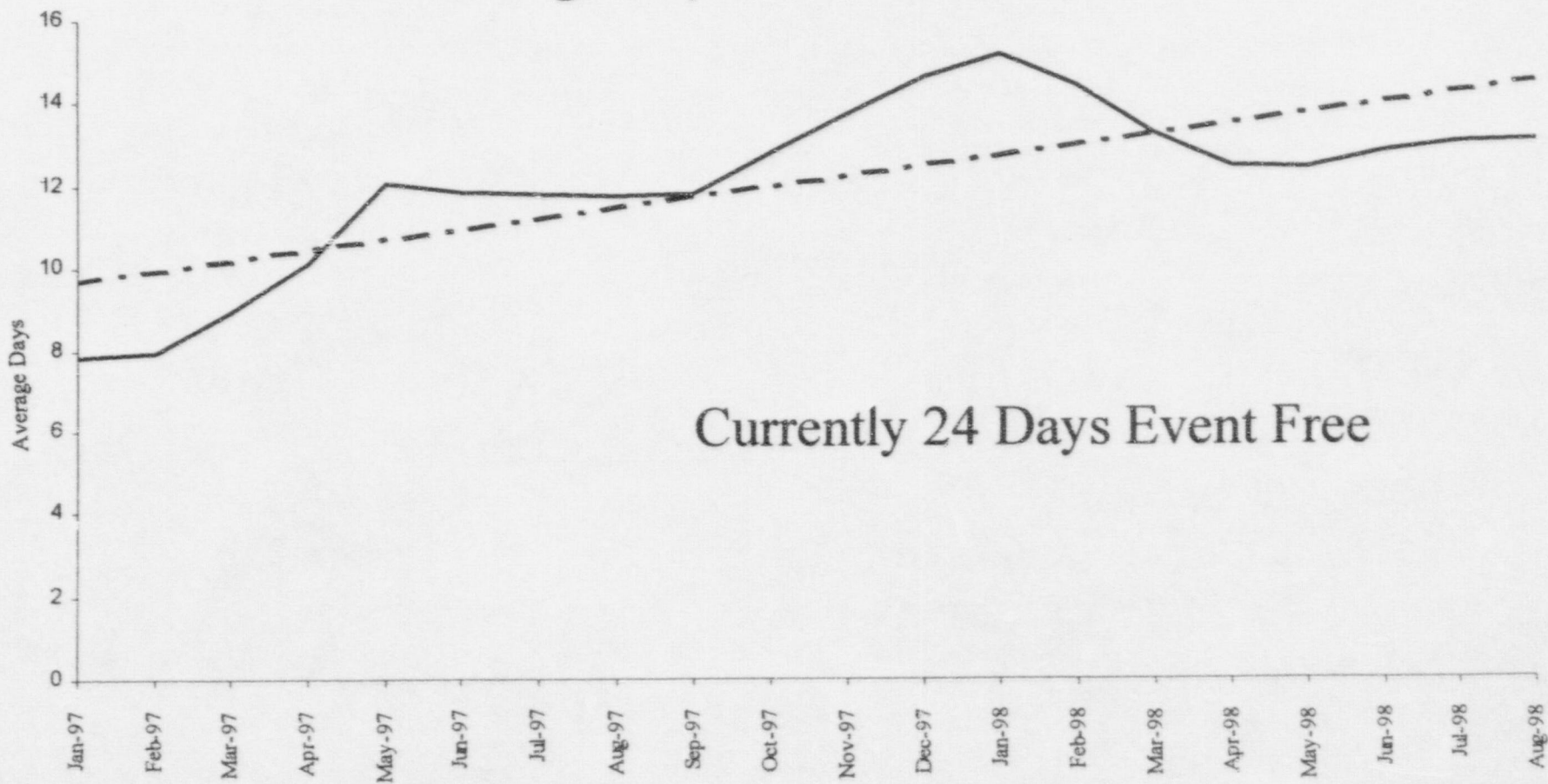
- Troubleshooting
- Rework
- Transition from Outage to Online Scheduling
- Planning for major activities
 - Simulator Usage
 - Contingencies
- Support organization around-the-clock coverage
- Operations Capability



Human Performance

Station Event Free Clock

Average Days Between Events



Currently 24 Days Event Free

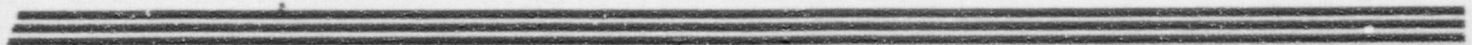




Unit 1 Power Ascension

Human Performance Observations

- Events
 - Failure to document temperature/pressure readings for a surveillance
 - Reactor Water Cleanup isolations
 - APRM flow converters set non-conservatively due to a calculational error
 - Swapped out-of-service cards on RBCCW pump
- Operations performance

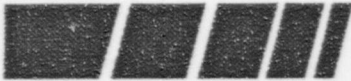




Unit 1 Power Ascension Nuclear Oversight Review

- 24 hours/day coverage
- Review at each test condition change
- Overall good performance
- Issues
 - Troubleshooting
 - Planning
 - Lessons Learned
- Operations performance



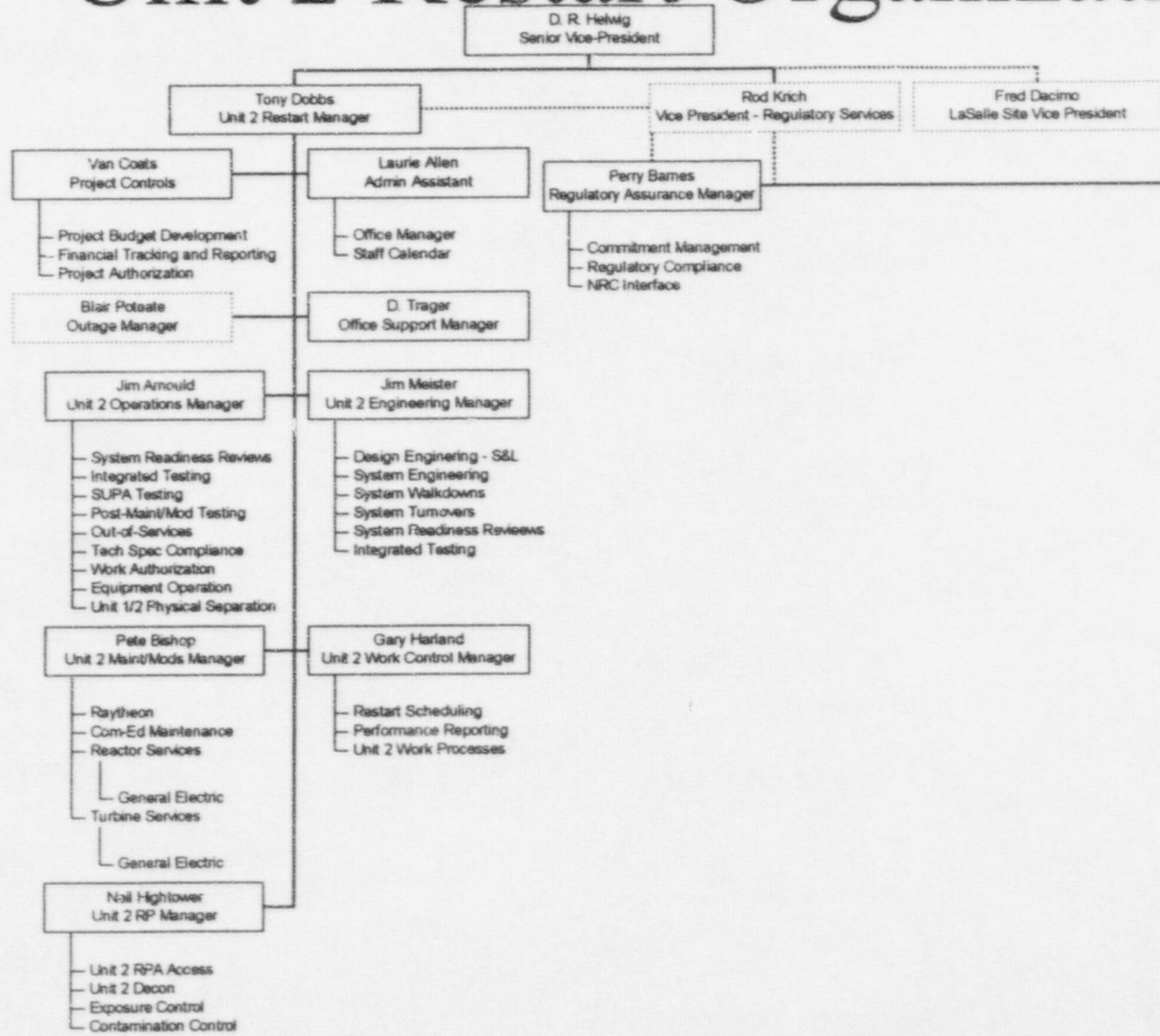


Unit 2 Restart Plan

- Revision 3 submitted to NRC on 9/14/98
- Similar to Unit 1 Plan
 - Same Restart Issue Screening Criteria
 - Similar Restart Verification Process
 - System Readiness Reviews
 - Departmental Readiness Reviews
 - Restart Issue Review Committee (RIRC) Validation
 - RIRC members same as Unit 1
 - Nuclear Oversight Validation
 - Corporate Nuclear Review Board Validation
 - Nuclear Safety Review Board Review
 - Chief Nuclear Officer Certification



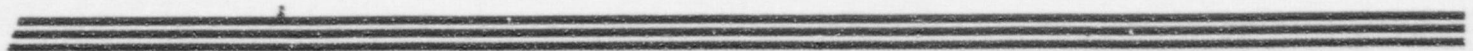
Unit 2 Restart Organization





Unit 1 and 2 Separation

- Physical separation barriers between units
- Unit separation out-of-services
- Separate Unit 2 Ingress-Egress
- Separate Site Access Facility
- Green hard hats identify Unit 2 Construction Workers
 - Green hard hats cannot access Unit 1 without Operations permission





Unit 2 Integrated Schedule

- Scope identification ongoing
 - System Readiness Review walkdowns
 - Design Change reviews
 - Work Request Backlog reviews
 - Scope Control Committee makeup similar to Unit 1
- Integrated Schedule development
 - Management review and schedule issuance in early October





Unit 1 Lessons Learned

- Continue to emphasize Quality
- Early, comprehensive scope identification
 - Perform system readiness reviews earlier
 - Build system windows
- Dedicated Project Managers for key projects
- Improve Outage Management



cc: D. Helwig, Senior Vice President
H. Stanley, PWR Vice President
C. Crane, BWR Vice President
R. Krich, Regulatory Services Manager
D. Greene, Licensing Director
DCD - Licensing
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K. Graesser, Byron Site Vice President
M. Heffley, Dresden Site Vice President
F. Dacimo, LaSalle Site Vice President
J. Dimmette, Jr., Quad Cities Site Vice President
K. Schwartz, Braidwood Station Manager
W. Levis, Byron Station Manager
P. Swafford, Dresden Station Manager
T. O'Connor, LaSalle Station Manager
W. Pearce, Quad Cities Station Manager
T. Simpkin, Braidwood Regulatory Assurance Supervisor
B. Adams, Byron Regulatory Assurance Manager
F. Spangenberg, Dresden Regulatory Assurance Manager
P. Barnes, LaSalle Regulatory Assurance Supervisor
C. Peterson, Quad Cities Regulatory Affairs Manager
R. Hubbard, MHB Technical Associates
M. Aguilar, Assistant Attorney General
State Liaison Officer
State Liaison Officer, Wisconsin
Chairman, Illinois Commerce Commission
W. Leech, Manager of Nuclear MidAmerican Energy Company

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October 14, 1998

Mr. Oliver D. Kingsley
President, Nuclear Generation Group
Commonwealth Edison Company
ATTN: Regulatory Services
Executive Towers West III
1400 Opus Place, Suite 500
Downers Grove, IL 60515

Dear Mr. Kingsley:

This letter confirms the discussion between members of our staffs to have a meeting at 1:00 p.m. (CST) on Tuesday, November 17, 1998, in the Region III office. The meeting is open to the public.

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss Commonwealth Edison Company (ComEd) Nuclear Generation Group's performance as it relates to actions ComEd has taken in response to the NRC's January 27, 1997, 10 CFR 50.54(f) letter regarding safety performance at ComEd's nuclear facilities.

We appreciate your cooperation in this matter. If you have any questions regarding this meeting, please contact me at 630/829-9600.

Sincerely,

/s/ Geoffrey E. Grant

Geoffrey E. Grant, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket Nos.: 50-456; 50-457; 50-454;
50-455; 50-237; 50-249;
50-373; 50-374; 50-254;
50-265

See Attached Distribution

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