

October 29, 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: OPERATOR LICENSING RETAKE EXAMINATION REPORTS  
50-456/98305(OL); 50-457/98305(OL)

Dear Mr. Kingsley :

On September 14, 1998, the NRC completed an initial operator license written retake examination for one applicant. The Braidwood written retake examination was conducted simultaneously with the initial operator examination at your Byron Nuclear Generating Station. At the conclusion of the examination process at the Byron Station, preliminary findings were discussed with those members of your training staff identified in the enclosed report during an Exit meeting at Byron Station on September 22, 1998. The license applicant's performance evaluation was finalized and members of your staff were informed of the examination results on October 20, 1998.

The retake examination was administered to one Reactor Operator license applicant who failed the written portion of his initial examination administered in October 1997. The applicant passed the retake examination and was issued a Reactor Operator's license.

This was a retake examination for one Braidwood applicant, but the overall examination was developed in conjunction with the Byron initial license examination. The written retake examination was the same examination that was given to the RO applicants at the Byron Station, with site specific differences updated on the Braidwood exam. Although no specific assessment was conducted on Braidwood's Training Department, the issues pertaining to the written examination development, quality assurance, and subsequent failure rate were documented in the Byron Station examination report.

On October 21, 1998, members of your Braidwood training department staff attended the Byron management meeting held at the Region III office to discuss the root cause concerning the Byron initial examination high failure rate. It is our expectation that the Braidwood training department instructors also refer to the Byron Examination Report 50-454/455-98301(OL) and use the applicant weaknesses outlined in the Byron report as feedback to improve the operator license training program in accordance with your Systematic Approach to Training (SAT) program.

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In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the Commission's regulations, a copy of this letter and the enclosures to this letter will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

Sincerely,

Original /s/ Melvyn Leach

Melvyn Leach, Chief  
Operator Licensing Branch

Docket No.: 50-456; 50-457  
License No.: DPR-29; DPR-30

- Enclosures:
1. Operator Licensing Examination Report 50-456/98305(OL); 50-457/98305(OL)
  2. Facility Post Written Examination Comments and NRC Resolution
  3. Examination and Answer Key (RO)

- cc w/encs 1 & 2:
- 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
  - T. Tulon, Site Vice President
  - K. Schwartz, Station Manager
  - T. Simpkin, Regulatory Assurance Supervisor
  - R. Hubbard, MHB Technical Associates
  - M. Aguilar, Assistant Attorney General
  - State Liaison Officer
  - Chairman, Illinois Commerce Commission

- cc w/encs 1, 2 & 3: J. Walker, Manager, Nuclear Training

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