



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION III
801 WARRENVILLE ROAD
LISLE, ILLINOIS 60532-4351
November 17, 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: BRAIDWOOD INSPECTION REPORT 50-456/98014(DRP); 50-457/98014(DRP)
AND NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Dear Mr. Kingsley:

On October 19, 1998, the NRC completed an inspection at your Braidwood Units 1 and 2 reactor facilities. The enclosed report presents the results of that inspection. During the 6-week period covered by this inspection, your conduct of activities was generally characterized by safety-conscious operations, sound engineering, and good maintenance practices.

We are concerned about a failure to take appropriate corrective actions when emergency diesel generator lubricating oil heat exchanger end bell bolting was found loose on two emergency diesel generators. Your staff did not recognize the potential for a common mode failure and did not perform a root cause analysis until NRC inspectors found the same problem on two more diesel generators during this inspection period. This resulted in a violation of NRC requirements.

We were also concerned about a failure to follow procedures during a local leak rate test that resulted in the spill of about 100 gallons of water. The operators interviewed were aware of the procedural requirements and management expectations regarding procedural requirements, but made incorrect assumptions in the field that resulted in the error. However, since your staff identified this problem and took appropriate corrective actions, this resulted in a non-cited violation.

Finally, we were concerned about recurring problems with configuration control. We understand that your corrective actions in regard to configuration control were extensive, but thus far have not been effective. The majority of the problems were due to personnel errors and involved nonsafety-related equipment. However, the failure to arrest this trend has the potential to adversely affect safety-related equipment in the future.

The violation described above is cited in the enclosed Notice of Violation (Notice), and the circumstances surrounding the violation are described in detail in the enclosed report. Please note that you are required to respond to this letter and should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice when preparing your response. Your response should not only detail the actions to be taken for the specific issue identified, but should also be broadly focused on what actions you plan or have taken to ensure that your corrective actions process is effective. The NRC will use your response, in part, to determine whether further enforcement action is necessary to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements.

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In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter, the enclosures, and your response will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

Sincerely,

/s/ Michael J. Jordan

Michael J. Jordan, Chief
Reactor Projects Branch 3

Docket Nos.: 50-456; 50-457
License Nos.: NPF-72; NPF-77

- Enclosures: 1. Notice of Violation
- 2. Inspection Report
50-456/98014(DRP);
50-457/98014(DRP)

- cc w/encls: 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
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