

December 4, 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 50-456/98018(DRS)

Dear Mr. Kingsley:

On November 10, 1998, the NRC completed an inspection at your Braidwood nuclear power station. The purpose of the inspection was to review activities associated with the station's steam generator replacement project in four areas: simulator modifications, plant procedure changes, operator knowledge and performance, and operator training. The enclosed report presents the results of this inspection.

Overall, activities associated with the station's steam generator replacement project in the areas of simulator modifications, procedure changes, operator knowledge and performance, and operator training were good. Simulator hardware and software changes appeared to accurately reflect the effects of steam generator replacement for Unit 1. Changes to plant procedures were properly identified, tracked, and completed in a timely fashion. Operator performance and level of knowledge observed during this inspection were generally good, with some exceptions noted below. Overall, the training associated with the steam generator replacement project was good, with some exceptions noted below.

During this inspection, some weaknesses were identified in operator performance and training. In the area of operator performance, a weakness in communications was observed, in that most of the observed crew members occasionally did not refer to plant equipment by the appropriate unit designator. In the area of operator training, a weakness was observed in the use of all encompassing learning objectives, such as "describe the steam generator replacement unit differences." The use of such an all encompassing learning objectives does not aid in focusing student attention and makes it difficult to determine the appropriateness and effectiveness of the training. An additional training weakness was observed concerning the lack of a well-defined plan for evaluating student mastery of the steam generator replacement training material prior to the restart of Unit 1 with the new steam generators. It appeared to the inspector that due to the significant impact of the steam generator replacement project, that some form of student evaluation should be conducted prior to the restart of Unit 1. The training staff, however, has recently decided to administer a 15 question written exam covering steam generator replacement topics prior to the restart of Unit 1.

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In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room. We will gladly discuss any questions you have concerning this inspection.

Sincerely,

Original /s/ Melvyn Leach

Melvyn Leach, Chief  
Operator Licensing Branch

Docket No.: 50-456  
License No.: NPF-72

Enclosure: Inspection Report 50-456/98018(DRS)

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