

October 8, 1997



U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington DC 20555-0001

Attention: Document Control Desk

Subject: Submittal of Plant Changes; Thermo-Lag Resolution

Byron Nuclear Power Station Units 1 and 2
NRC Docket Numbers 50-454, 50-455

Braidwood Nuclear Power Station Units 1 and 2
NRC Docket Numbers 50-456, 50-457

Reference: Letter from J. B. Hosmer to NRC Document Control Desk, "Status of Actions to Address Generic Letter 92-08 Thermo-Lag Fire Barriers", dated January 17, 1997.

The purpose of this letter is to re-schedule Byron and Braidwood Station's submittal of the final plant changes resolving Thermo-Lag (Generic Letter 92-08) concerns at both stations. The referenced letter informed the NRC that all plant changes necessary to resolve the Generic Letter 92-08 concerns have been installed on all units at Byron and Braidwood and reliance on Thermo-Lag fire barrier material is no longer required. The plant changes in effect as of June, 1996 at both stations were submitted to the NRC in Fire Protection Report Amendment #17 in December, 1996. The referenced letter stated that the plant changes in effect after June, 1996 would be submitted in Amendment #18 to the Fire Protection Report in December, 1997. Byron and Braidwood Stations now plan to submit Amendment #18 in December, 1998, as explained below.

Discussions with the Byron and Braidwood Project Manager on September 4 and 25, 1997, indicated that the re-schedule would not impact NRR's review of this issue, provided the plant changes discussed in the reference letter are in place. All the changes discussed in the referenced letter have been completed at both stations.

The plant changes in effect after June, 1996, are marked on pending Fire Protection Report pages. Safety evaluations per 10CFR50.59 have been performed and demonstrate that no unreviewed safety questions are involved. These pending Fire Protection Report pages are available for use by plant personnel for any fire protection program evaluations and are available for NRC review at the Byron and Braidwood sites. The plant changes in effect after June, 1996 will be forwarded to the NRC as Amendment #18 until December, 1998 because substantial revisions to the same Fire Protection Report pages are being prepared due to an ongoing re-constitution of the Byron/Braidwood Safe Shutdown Analysis. The scope of this evaluation has expanded but is expected to be completed in 1997, thereby allowing a comprehensive inclusion of both sets of changes at

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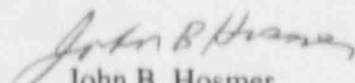
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the same time. The postponement of the submittal of the Thermo-Lag resolution plant changes will eliminate two closely spaced revisions to the same pages. Amendments to the Fire Protection Report are typically submitted to the NRC with the normal UFSAR updates. The next required update to the Byron/Braidwood UFSAR is December, 1998. Submitting Amendment #18 to the Fire Protection Report in December, 1998 maintains the normal interval.

Sincerely,


John B. Hosmer
Vice President

cc: Regional Administrator-RIII
Byron/Braidwood Project Manager-NRR
Senior Resident Inspector-Byron
Senior Resident Inspector-Braidwood
Office of Nuclear Safety-IDNS