

ORIGINAL

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

Title: Discussion/Possible Vote on Full Power
Operating License for Braidwood-1

Location: Washington, D. C.

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1 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
2 NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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4 DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE VOTE ON FULL POWER OPERATING LICENSE
5 FOR BRAIDWOOD-1

6 ***

7 PUBLIC MEETING

8 ***

9 Nuclear Regulatory Commission
10 Room 1130
11 1717 H Street, Northwest
12 Washington, D.C.

13
14 Tuesday, June 30, 1987
15

16 The Commission met in open session, pursuant to
17 notice, at 2:05 o'clock, p.m., the Honorable Lando W. Zech,
18 Jr., Chairman of the Commission, presiding.

19 COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

20 LANDO W. ZECH, JR., Chairman of the Commission
21 THOMAS M. ROBERTS, Member of the Commission
22 JAMES K. ASSELSTINE, Member of the Commission
23 FREDERICK M. BERNTHAL, Member of the Commission
24 KENNETH CARR, Member of the Commission
25

1 STAFF AND PRESENTERS SEATED AT THE COMMISSION TABLE:

3 SAMUEL CHILK

4 WILLIAM PARLER

5 VICTOR STELLO

6 JAMES O'CONNER, CECO

7 EUGENE FITZPATRICK, CECO

8 CORDELL REED, CECO

9 THOMAS MURLEY, NRR

10 JANICE STEVENS, NRR

11 A. BERT DAVIS, REGION III

12 CHARLES NORELIUS, REGION III

13
14 AUDIENCE SPEAKERS:15
16 JACK HAYES, NRR
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P R O C E E D I N G S

[2:05 p.m.]

CHAIRMAN ZECH: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen.

The purpose of today's meeting is for the Commonwealth Edison Company and the Staff to brief the Commission concerning the readiness of Braidwood Unit 1 to receive a full power license. This meeting includes considerations of the immediate effectiveness review of the Licensing Board's decision on Braidwood Unit 1. At the conclusion of the meeting, if the Commission is ready, we will -- we intend to vote on whether or not to issue an order declaring the immediate effectiveness of the Licensing Board's decision on Braidwood and to authorize the Director of NRR, the Nuclear Reactor Regulatory Office, after making the appropriate findings, to issue a full power operating license for Braidwood Unit 1.

Since this licensing proceeding involves a pending appeal, I will ask that the General Counsel closely monitor the proceeding to assure that today's discussion does not touch on contested issues that may later come before the Commission.

I understand that copies of the slides of the presentation are available at the back of the room.

Do any of my fellow Commissioners have any opening comments to make.

COMMISSIONER ASSELSTINE: No.

1 CHAIRMAN ZECH: If not, Mr. O'Conner, you may proceed
2 with your presentation.

3 MR. O'CONNER: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, and
4 good afternoon, gentlemen.

5 I am James O'Conner, Chairman, President, and Chief
6 Executive Officer of Commonwealth Edison Company, and with me
7 at the table today at my right is Cordell Reed, recently
8 appointed our Senior Vice President, who is responsible for our
9 nuclear operations, and to my left is Mr. Eugene Fitzpatrick,
10 who is the Station Manager for Braidwood.

11 We very much appreciate this opportunity to be here.
12 I will make a few opening remarks and describe the basis for my
13 belief that Braidwood Station is ready to receive a license for
14 full power operation.

15 Cordell Reed will discuss our nuclear management
16 reorganization, regulatory performance at our other Edison
17 stations, and succession planning for our management personnel.

18 Mr. Fitzpatrick will discuss the Braidwood shift
19 staffing and experience.

20 Today's presentation represents the culmination of
21 fifteen years of effort. I am here today to confirm that the
22 safe and reliable operation of our nuclear plants and the
23 successful completion of our nuclear construction program have
24 been the dominant priorities throughout my entire career with
25 Edison and have been the principal focus of my personal

1 activities since I was named President of the company almost
2 ten years ago.

3 Commonwealth Edison has an extremely strong project
4 management system to build our nuclear plants. The individual
5 who directs the construction of these plants has reported
6 directly to me for the past seven years. This was deliberately
7 done to assure that there could be no mistake in anyone's mind
8 in our company as to the importance that we attach to the
9 quality, construction, and completion of our nuclear power
10 plants.

11 My contact with the Manager of Projects has been on a
12 daily basis, including weekends and oftentimes several times a
13 day. We would discuss progress, problems, and personnel. I
14 think it is fair to say that I have participated in or reviewed
15 every personnel assignment at a senior level that has taken
16 place at Braidwood in the past seven years.

17 In addition, we expect our quality assurance
18 organization at Commonwealth Edison to provide a strong third-
19 party, independent monitoring of our nuclear stations'
20 construction and operations. Quality assurance overviews at
21 Braidwood demonstrate compliance with the station's procedures
22 and requirements. I might not parenthetically that the Manager
23 of Quality Assurance for the company also reports directly to
24 me.

25 I have made frequent trips to the site to meet with

1 the project management team and often with the senior
2 management of the contractors. Neither the Manager of Projects
3 nor, for that matter, any senior management at the site has
4 ever been reluctant to inform me of the status of the project
5 or to seek assistance in those instances where they felt that I
6 might be helpful.

7 Also the business at our monthly Board meeting was a
8 discussion of the status of construction at our nuclear plants.
9 Our Board has traditionally taken a special interest in our
10 nuclear plants under construction as well as those in
11 operation. In the case of Braidwood, has twice visited the
12 site.

13 In addition, we have a special Board Committee on
14 Nuclear Operations, which is composed of retired Admiral Dennis
15 Wilkinson, former NRC Commissioner, Dr. Edward Mason, and Dr.
16 Thomas Martin, President Emeritus of the Illinois Institute of
17 Technology, who remain especially close to our nuclear
18 activities.

19 Braidwood Unit I is a proven design. it's a replica
20 of the two units now in operation at our Byron Station. I'm
21 pleased to report that Braidwood Unit I is critical. Low power
22 testing has been completed. The unit is ready to proceed in
23 its power ascension program. We do not anticipate any
24 difficulties through the remainder of the start-up testing
25 program.

1 When Cordell Reed was here five months ago for the
2 meeting on Byron, he discussed the superior start-up that Byron
3 Unit II was having. He attributed that in part to experienced
4 station management, a strengthening of corporate support and
5 the vast experience that we gained from the start-up of Byron
6 Unit I.

7 The start-up of Byron II has continued to be very
8 successful and is close to completion today. Byron Unit I
9 generated more power than any other nuclear unit in the country
10 in 1986 and sustained a 133 day continuous run during its first
11 cycle. In the Spring of this year, INPO gave Byron its highest
12 rating. In addition, Byron's training program has been fully
13 accredited and Byron is now a full member of the National
14 Academy for Nuclear Training. Finally, Byron received a very
15 positive SALP report during the most recent rating period.

16 The reason I mention all of these positive aspects
17 about Byron is because much of the success attributable to
18 improvement programs initiated in the area of operations,
19 radiation protection, security and maintenance. The major
20 elements of all these programs have been incorporated into the
21 directives and procedures for Braidwood as well.

22 I believe this effort along with a proven plant
23 design which is a duplicate of Byron's, will assure that
24 Braidwood will also be a top performer.

25 Finally, with respect to Braidwood's readiness, we

1 are in the position to accept a full power operating license.
2 The existence of a strong on-site management organization has
3 provided firm control of construction activities and has
4 established the proper direction for successful completion of
5 the station.

6 As a result, both units at Braidwood have been on
7 schedule for completion of every significant construction and
8 testing milestone since they were established in late 1985.
9 That's without exception. Successful completion of milestones
10 on Unit I such as the reactor coolant system, cold hydro, the
11 integrated hot functionals, the emergency core cooling system,
12 full flow, and integrated leak rate testing, were accomplished
13 as scheduled and led to fuel load on October 25, 1986.

14 These activities were performed in an exemplary
15 manner with no sacrifice of quality.

16 We have made every effort to assure full confidence
17 in the construction quality of Braidwood. One major effort
18 that we organized to accomplish this was the Braidwood
19 construction assessment program or BCAP. BCAP provided a
20 comprehensive program of re-inspections and reviews. Its focus
21 on past construction provided an additional basis for my
22 confidence that the past, ongoing and future safety related
23 work at Braidwood has resulted in completed systems that meet
24 the NRC's requirements.

25 Tom Maimon, who was our Vice President and Manager of

1 Projects, is now our Vice President, Corporate Vice President,
2 in charge of PWR operations. As a consequence, he will have
3 direct oversight at the corporate level of the Braidwood
4 Station. He brings with him the working knowledge of the
5 construction of Byron and Braidwood and the attributes that
6 made the Byron and Braidwood project organization so
7 successful.

8 I would now like to call on Cordell Reed who will
9 then be followed by Gene Fitzpatrick, our Braidwood Station
10 Manager. Gene has extensive experience in both Naval and
11 commercial nuclear power. He will explain the current status
12 of the plant and our plans to start up Unit I. Based on his
13 background and demonstrated performance, I have full confidence
14 that he will operate the Braidwood Station in a safe and
15 reliable manner.

16 Thank you, gentlemen. Cordell?

17 MR. REED: Thank you, Jim.

18 As Jim said, when I was here five months ago, I
19 talked about the very excellent start-up we were having on
20 Byron Unit II and that experience has continued. Outside of
21 having a super station staff, which we have a great staff that
22 learns well, part of our success I felt was the strengthening
23 of our corporate support.

24 The most significant change at our corporate
25 structure management level at that time was the establishment

1 of two Division Vice President positions within our Nuclear
2 Division. One overseeing our newer stations, LaSalle, Byron
3 and Braidwood, and the other overseeing our older stations,
4 Dresden, Quad Cities and Zion.

5 We chose two of our most experienced and successful
6 station managers to be our Division Vice Presidents. They
7 spent three to four days a week at our nuclear stations. This
8 has provided stability in corporate direction and has ensured
9 effective corporate support.

10 On June 5th, we made a further improvement in the
11 organization of our corporate management. I have been elevated
12 to Senior Vice President and two Corporate Vice Presidents have
13 been appointed to direct our PWR operations and our BWR
14 operations. Three station managers and an engineering manager
15 report in line to the Vice Presidents of Operation.
16 Additionally, the Division Vice Presidents I mentioned earlier
17 now remain General Managers, have functional control over the
18 station managers and also report to the Vice President.

19 We still utilized our leadership and experience three
20 to four days a week in our stations. I have also reorganized
21 our Nuclear Services to more effectively integrate these
22 general office departments into our station operations. All of
23 our Nuclear Services' managers and GO department heads have
24 extensive station experience.

25 I would like to review the performance of our nuclear

1 operating units. Our mission is to achieve excellence in our
2 operations, and we define excellence as achieving performance
3 in the upper quartile of INPO industry performance data. This
4 is just not a snappy slogan, but is a carefully developed
5 strategic plan for achieving excellence in our operations. The
6 plan was not developed by consultants, but rather the mission
7 and policies and objectives were developed by me and my senior
8 managers.

9 More importantly, the action plans for achieving the
10 objectives were developed by the stations and support
11 departments. This process took over a year in planning. We
12 did not set any goals that we can't reasonably be expected to
13 achieve. It will require a substantial improvement in our
14 operations over the next five years, but our strategic plan is
15 the master plan for our stations and GO-goalsetting.

16 Let me now relate how we're doing in our operations.
17 I am sure that management by exception for you necessarily
18 makes you aware of mostly the weaknesses in our plant
19 performance. However, let me tell you a few positives about
20 our operations to help in your appreciation of our total
21 operations.

22 As Jim said, Byron Unit 1 generated more electricity
23 in 1986 than any other nuclear unit; however, Zion Unit 1 came
24 in third in the country. Zion Station has generated more
25 lifetime electricity than any multi-unit station in the

1 country, and in terms of SCRAMs, INPO data show that last year
2 Quad Cities Unit 1 was fourth best in the country, and three
3 CECO units were in the best quartile in SCRAM performance.
4 Seven out of our nine CECO units had zero safety system
5 actuations in 1986, and in terms of civil penalties from the
6 NRC, Zion Station has gone three years without a civil penalty,
7 Quad Cities has gone two years, and prior to this year, Dresden
8 had gone two years.

9 Now we receive two major evaluations of our stations
10 each year. One is from the INPO plant evaluation, and the
11 other is from the NRC SALP review. In terms of INPO, this is
12 how they view our stations. INPO views Quad Cities, Zion and
13 LaSalle in the broad middle of their performance ratings.
14 Although this is good, it does not fulfill our strategic plan
15 for being in the upper quartile of INPO's performance standards
16 by 1991. And I am proud to report, as Jim has related, that
17 Byron Station has achieved our goal, being rated in the top
18 performance rating that INPO has to offer.

19 In August 1986, INPO conducted a plant evaluation at
20 Dresden that identified a number of weaknesses and resulted in
21 a low rating. Since that time, we have initiated extensive
22 corrective actions to address the concerns and to better manage
23 our station. These include significant personnel changes,
24 including a new Station Manager. In addition, Dresden
25 Station's performance has benefitted significantly from the

1 enhanced company emphasis on new practices, such as an error-
2 free startup plan which involves added precautions to assure
3 that things are done right the first time and an increased
4 station and corporate involvement in our day-to-day activities,
5 which I described earlier.

6 As a result, we are beginning to see substantial
7 improvement in station operations and are confident that
8 Dresden will do well at the next evaluation in July. INPO has
9 made short visits to the station to follow up on their
10 evaluation, and they have noted progress.

11 In February, LaSalle was removed from the Region III
12 list of troubled plants. We have had two years of very solid
13 progress at LaSalle.

14 Byron Station has set the standard for excellence for
15 all of our nuclear stations, and we have developed a major
16 program to improve the facilities at all of our nuclear
17 stations to meet this standard.

18 Now last, I would like to discuss our succession
19 planning program for our nuclear operations personnel. The
20 objective of the program is to develop a reference list of
21 candidates for key jobs who are either ready now or could be
22 ready in two to five years for the necessary developmental
23 assignments. The succession planning in my area is done in
24 conjunction with the corporate program, which includes
25 executive positions and goes down to Station Managers. I have

1 expanded on the corporate program in my area to include many
2 more key positions in the nuclear stations and the GO office
3 departments.

4 In the stations, we include our top positions, but we
5 also include positions like Master Mechanic, Tech Staff
6 Supervisor, and Shift Control Room Engineer. The key to this
7 program is that the initial list of candidates is developed by
8 the person currently holding the job, thereby allowing
9 grassroots input.

10 Finally, there is a management development program
11 administered by a Corporate Management Development Committee.
12 The committee is headed by Jim O'Conner, our Chairman, and
13 consists of ten officers of the company, including myself. The
14 committee identifies individuals early in their careers who
15 have shown the potential for top job assignments, such as
16 department heads, Station Managers, and officer. The committee
17 meets monthly and tracks about 150 people. The status and
18 progress of each individual is reviewed at approximately six-
19 month intervals, and developmental moves are planned by the
20 committee.

21 These are our key management development programs,
22 and we put a great deal of effort into this endeavor.

23 And now I would like to introduce Gene Fitzpatrick,
24 our Station Manager. Many of you have visited the plant where
25 Gene is at, and I think his pride and his commitment to

1 excellence is evident.

2 Gene?

3 MR. FITZPATRICK: Thank you, Mr. Reed.

4 My name is Gene Fitzpatrick, Braidwood Station
5 Manager. I will discuss Braidwood's operational readiness in
6 terms of our organization and staffing, including experience
7 levels of our key personnel.

8 The Unit 1 and Unit 2 schedules are: Unit 1
9 performance since fuel load, two key plans that we have
10 implemented in association of our startup, our lessons-learned
11 program, and the status of our model spaces program.

12 Braidwood Station is organized like our five other
13 operating stations. Two Superintendents report to the Station
14 Manager, a Production Superintendent who has responsibility for
15 operations, maintenance and station startup and work planning
16 and a Services Superintendent who is responsible for technical
17 services, including the radiation chemistry groups, quality
18 control, and the technical staff, plus training, security,
19 administrative functions, and regulatory assurance.

20 I would like to stress that we have implemented
21 within our organization a strong regulatory assurance approach
22 which we feel provides the proper interface and upfront
23 attention with the NRC and other industry and company auditing
24 and evaluation groups. The idea is never to get to a situation
25 where a regulatory improvement program becomes necessary.

1 Currently, our organization consists of 676 company
2 employees, 389 contracted security personnel, and 287
3 contracted consultants, including over 100 technicians under
4 station direction who perform instrument calibrations in
5 support of Unit 2.

6 Our senior personnel at the station and our
7 operations people down through our shift supervision are all
8 well experienced. For example, our top seven managers average
9 17 years of nuclear experience. Our Operating Engineers
10 average 14 years, and our shift supervision averages over 11
11 years.

12 All but our most experienced licensed operators
13 completed a hot license participation program, primarily at
14 Zion or Byron. We have also supplemented our personnel on
15 shift with contracted personnel who participated on shift
16 during the Unit 1 startup at Byron.

17 Braidwood Unit 1 has achieved a significant set of
18 milestones over the past year and a half, starting with fuel
19 receipt in December 1985. Throughout 1986, we met an
20 aggressive testing schedule and loaded fuel in October within
21 four weeks of the date established in the fall of 1985. We
22 achieved initial criticality on Unit 1 on May 29, 1987 and
23 completed low-power testing on June 12th, three days ahead of
24 schedule.

25 Unit 1 is currently critical at normal operating temperature

1 and pressure.

2 Pending issuance of our full-power license, our
3 schedule for entering Mode 1 is July 4th with the completion of
4 all Unit 1 testing by September 19th and commercial operation
5 by September 26th.

6 We have also made significant progress on Unit 2
7 while awaiting the ASLB decision on Unit 1. The start of Unit
8 2 integrated hot functional testing is scheduled for this week
9 with fuel load scheduled for mid-December 1987.

10 Our operational performance on Unit 1 to date has
11 been very good. We had an error-free fuel load, as well as
12 error-free mode changes, initial criticality and low-power
13 testing. We have been conservative in our approach to
14 operations when problems, mostly minor in nature, have arisen,
15 and we've taken the time to thoroughly investigate and resolve
16 these problems before proceeding.

17 Since the issuance of the fuel load license in
18 October 1986, our regulatory performance has also been very
19 good. We continue to see a decrease in the number of personnel
20 errors, LERs, only two in the past three months.

21 Since fuel load, there have been a few violations
22 against the operating station. We believe these are isolated
23 occurrences for which we have corrective actions complete or
24 underway to prevent recurrence.

25 While our last SALP ratings were good, we believe

1 that we have continued to improve in the interim in all areas.

2 We have had good success at Braidwood identifying our
3 goals and then implementing these plans. There are many
4 examples of this which have worked well. One of these is our
5 error free plan for start-up. The concept for this plan was
6 developed at LaSalle for their 1986 start-ups following
7 outages. The plan helped LaSalle achieve error free start-ups
8 on both units. Subsequently a similar plan was also successful
9 for the Dresden Unit III start-up following their 1986 outage.

10 We adopted the essence of these plans at Braidwood
11 because they represented a sound method of doing business.
12 Included in our plan are special executive level reviews
13 conducted by our corporate office and periodic meetings chaired
14 by an executive in which Byron and Braidwood personnel both
15 participate.

16 The plan also provides for establishing during
17 periods of increased activity, a senior manager on shift,
18 adding additional SROs and ROs when necessary, around the clock
19 maintenance coverage, a shift test director in the control room
20 and enhanced control over construction activities.

21 The shift release process adopted as a part of this
22 plan has been especially beneficial. We bring our shift
23 licensed personnel in a full hour before shift change. The
24 first 20 to 30 minutes are devoted to the individuals walking
25 their areas and reviewing plant status.

1 [Whereupon, at 2:30 p.m., Commissioner Roberts left
2 the room.]

3 MR. REED: Following this but prior to relief, these
4 personnel get together and jointly review the plant status and
5 other information they have collected. These meetings are also
6 attended by maintenance foremen, the rad-waste foremen and the
7 rad-chem foremen. After the exchange, the operators conduct
8 the on-station shift relief.

9 Essentially, this error free plan focuses on
10 communications among the various personnel on shift and serves
11 as a team building tool as well.

12 A second plan we have adopted at Braidwood is our
13 plan for managing Unit I and Unit II concurrent activities.
14 The intent of this plan is to help assure that appropriate
15 attention, direction, supervision and control exists for taking
16 Braidwood Unit I through its power ascension start-up program,
17 at the same time Unit II is undergoing pre-operational testing.

18 The overriding priority as stressed in this plan is
19 maintaining Unit I license requirements. The plan is really an
20 extension of the error free plan. Several of the error free
21 plan elements such as the corporate overviews, the shift
22 augmentation and the shift relief process are directly
23 applicable.

24 Additionally, however, we have further augmented our
25 staff to deal with concurrent Unit I and Unit II activities.

1 For example, we have established a Unit II control room testing
2 supervisor manned by a Braidwood licensed SRO, who reports to
3 our Station Control Room Engineer and who supervises testing
4 activities on Unit II.

5 Another aspect of this plan is to carefully monitor
6 control room access including numbers and traffic patterns to
7 minimize control room distractions and congestion. So far
8 during Unit I initial criticality and the lower power testing
9 program, this plan has worked well.

10 We also believe very strongly at Braidwood in
11 learning from the experience of others. Our Regulatory
12 Assurance Department deals with lessons learned from Byron,
13 other plants and the industry in general.

14 For example, following the Byron Unit I start-up, a
15 task force was formed to review and document with
16 recommendations problem areas that arose. At Braidwood, we
17 have resolved each of those areas in advance of our start-up.
18 We have also reviewed all Byron deviation reports including
19 LERs, NRC inspection reports, NRC notices of violation,
20 modifications, temporary alterations and even caution cards, to
21 assess applicability to Braidwood. These efforts will continue
22 into the future as new information becomes available.

23 One of the programs we are extremely proud of at
24 Braidwood is our model spaces program. Each of you that
25 visited Braidwood commented favorably. We started this program

1 to establish an objective standard of excellence for
2 housekeeping and material condition significantly above the
3 acceptable level. We believe that a clean painted plant helps
4 preserve the equipment, makes it easier to clean up, makes
5 decontamination practical, has extremely positive effects on
6 morale and attitude and improves safety by lowering the
7 threshold of visible problem areas that otherwise could
8 possibly go undetected.

9 Completion of this program will result in Braidwood
10 being one of the very best in the area of housekeeping.

11 [Whereupon, at 2:33 p.m., Commissioner Roberts re-
12 entered the room.]

13 MR. REED: In conclusion, we have the right attitude,
14 the dedication, the ability and the confidence to operate
15 Braidwood safely and reliably. We have set our standards and
16 our goals high. Simply stated, we intend to be the best.

17 Mr. Chairman and Commissioners, Braidwood is prepared
18 in all respects to receive the full power license.

19 CHAIRMAN ZECH: Thank you very much. Questions from
20 my fellow Commissioners?

21 COMMISSIONER ASSELSTINE: Just a couple. Cordell, I
22 appreciate your covering the operating experience for all of
23 your stations. That was one area I was interested in
24 exploring. As you know, that is one we talked about quite
25 extensively about five months ago.

1 One thing I am interested in; you mentioned the INPO
2 assessments and where your plants stood. Could you give me a
3 little perspective in terms of trends? In which direction are
4 they moving? Are they all moving in an upward direction?

5 MR. REED: INPO just started their numerical ratings.
6 At least, there was one before this. There is a new system.
7 For some of these plants, it is the first time through. It's
8 hard to say with respect to LaSalle, Zion and Quad Cities. We
9 are in the middle. We want to be on top.

10 COMMISSIONER ASSELSTINE: Dresden took a downward
11 turn in terms of the August, 1986 evaluation. When are you due
12 again?

13 MR. REED: In July; next month. Dresden had received
14 acceptable ratings prior to. It's no excuse but we had come
15 out of a nine month piping replacement outage on Dresden.
16 There was some slippage in performance during that period of
17 time.

18 COMMISSIONER ASSELSTINE: You talked about the
19 corporate reorganization, and I gather it has just taken place
20 within the past month or so. What advantages do you see from
21 that new organization, particularly in focusing attention on
22 your older stations and I guess LaSalle to a certain extent,
23 the ones that appear on the lower end of the scale, and
24 particularly on Dresden?

25 MR. REED: What I see is attention to detail. Denny

1 Galley who formerly was in charge of all six plants will have
2 three. We have broken up Engineering so it is more responsive
3 to the station. With Denny Galley and his Division Vice
4 President, they will be able to be in these stations many days
5 during the week and similarly, Tom Maimon. Tom has run our
6 very successful construction and start-up of the Byron and
7 Braidwood units.

8 Again, it is having more talent to look at pieces of
9 the action that they can look at in detail.

10 COMMISSIONER ASSELSTINE: One last question on your
11 operators. Can you give me an assessment of your operators'
12 performance in terms of licensing exams? You talked about
13 operating experience. How have you done in terms of preparing
14 your operators for their licenses for Braidwood?

15 MR. FITZPATRICK: We feel we have done extremely
16 well. We put 66 people up for license and we licensed 63 of
17 those people. Included in that were a few re-exams. If I look
18 at the system as a black box, we licensed 95 percent of the
19 people we intended to license.

20 COMMISSIONER ASSELSTINE: What has the pass/fail rate
21 been overall in terms of first time?

22 MR. FITZPATRICK: I believe it is about 85 percent.

23 COMMISSIONER ASSELSTINE: That covers my questions.

24 CHAIRMAN ZECH: Commissioner Bernthal?

25 COMMISSIONER BERNTHAL: I don't really have any

1 technical questions with respect to the plant. It has been a
2 while since I was out to visit the plant. I was curious as to
3 the progress of your designated areas or whatever.

4 MR. FITZPATRICK: Model spaces.

5 COMMISSIONER BERNTHAL: Model spaces for
6 housekeeping. What is your schedule to extend that project
7 throughout the plant? The second part of that question is
8 housekeeping appearance is essential, of course, and you may
9 have mentioned this, and if you did, I would appreciate your
10 repeating or perhaps elaborating on the maintenance goals with
11 respect to preventive maintenance versus required maintenance.

12 I'm just curious about this special program you have.

13 MR. FITZPATRICK: First of all, let me address the
14 model spaces question. We have carried that forward since the
15 time you were at the station. We have gone about it and
16 approached it from let's get the guts of the plant done first.
17 That is where we are going to get the biggest payoff, being
18 able to decontaminate, for example. We have essentially
19 completed all of the Unit I equipment cubicles and all of the
20 Unit I areas adjacent to containment and all of the Unit I
21 valve aisles, with minor exceptions.

22 The general areas in Unit I, in the auxiliary
23 building, we have let go to last on purpose. I can do those
24 and not unnecessarily expose people and still gain the benefits
25 of being able to decontaminate in those areas we have done.

1 We have progressed very far along. We have the
2 program scheduled out through the end of August at this point
3 in time. We should by that time have all of the Unit I areas
4 complete.

5 The additional areas listed for Unit II are by
6 priority and we will attack those and schedule them as they
7 come up.

8 In addition to the Unit I areas, I would like to say
9 we have also prioritized the areas that are common to both
10 units. Gas decay tank areas, for example, we have completed.
11 The rad-waste evaporator areas that are common, we have
12 completed. We have made significant progress across the board.

13 As far as PM goes, we feel we have a very viable PM
14 program. We are aware of the concerns about maintenance across
15 the industry. We of course are aware of the INPO guidelines.
16 We review all of those guidelines and each of our stations is
17 committed to a self evaluation. Those self evaluations have
18 started. Braidwood's is scheduled to start on July 13th.
19 Preventive maintenance will be one of the activities that is
20 looked at during that evaluation.

21 COMMISSIONER BERNTHAL: Do you have a goal for how
22 much of your maintenance effort, percentages have to be rough,
23 I realize, how much of that effort and time devoted per year
24 should be devoted to preventive versus required maintenance?
25 Have you set a utility-wide goal or plant goal?

1 MR. FITZPATRICK: I don't know of any goal that has
2 been set in that area.

3 COMMISSIONER BERNTHAL: 30 percent, 50 percent? I
4 have heard 80 percent in some cases, which is surprisingly
5 large. There are countries that do that.

6 MR. FITZPATRICK: If I had to render a guess, I would
7 probably fall within the bracket you said; I would have said
8 somewhere between 30 and 50 percent.

9 MR. REED: We have not set a goal. Interestingly, at
10 Dresden, we are going to be one of the utilities where INPO
11 makes a site visit to do a very detailed looking at Dresden's
12 preventive maintenance. From that input and from looking at
13 all of our plants, we will make any adjustments in our program
14 that is needed. I can't hazard a guess as to what percentage
15 will be PM.

16 COMMISSIONER BERNTHAL: Unrelated to this plant but
17 I'm also a little concerned as you are, I'm sure, about what is
18 going on at Dresden, do you have any preliminary analysis there
19 of why they should have had this apparent slippage? Is it too
20 soon to tell?

21 MR. REED: I think we were trying to do a lot of
22 things at one time. One of the things about INPO when they
23 come in, they want to see a station that is continually making
24 progress. I must admit we had some long term equipment things
25 that we were going to get around to doing, like replacing the

1 make up demineralizer and the heating system. I think INPO
2 caught us in a period of time when we weren't going to do that
3 because we had Unit III apart. They call them like they see
4 them. They are a very good motivational force.

5 What it has caused us to do at Dresden is to do a lot
6 more than we had originally intended to do. We are using the
7 Byron Station as the example. Our paint up program is directed
8 to get a station that is going to look like Byron. More
9 important than painting is to improve the material condition of
10 the station. That is one of the reasons we are focusing
11 Engineering the way we are, to focus in directly on Dresden and
12 Quad Cities and those problems.

13 COMMISSIONER BERNTHAL: The complaints were primarily
14 fairly objective hardware things that they wanted to see done
15 or thought were going to be done earlier and that had not been
16 carried out yet? Is that a fair statement?

17 MR. REED: Yes. Three basic areas. One was
18 chemistry. Our chemists were not inquisitive enough to follow
19 abnormal chemistry results. The second is rad-protection.

20 COMMISSIONER BERNTHAL: Water chemistry?

21 MR. REED: Water chemistry. In rad-protection, they
22 found too many evidences where people weren't following the
23 rules. INPO will go out and stand at a step-off pad and stand
24 there for three hours. They will count 70 people and see how
25 many of them do their frisking properly.

1 The other thing they said that was maybe most
2 profound was they felt the station management didn't get out in
3 the plant enough and to set their standard as to what they
4 wanted to happen.

5 It was a number of things that bothered them.

6 COMMISSIONER BERNTHAL: That was two plants ago, and
7 not when I visited Braidwood, but I think when I was at Byron
8 earlier, that I got a sense of your personal concern about the
9 level of independence that each plant had. I think that is a
10 problem that you, I trust, are long past. Nevertheless, here
11 is a utility that is used to running a number of plants and by
12 and large has done a competent job of doing that, and yet one
13 plant seems to be a problem point.

14 Do you have any sense as to the reason why? Is it
15 just that your energies have been focused and your personnel
16 focused on the other plants? Why should that be?

17 MR. REED: I just cannot answer that question. It
18 seems like in a plant's lifetime, they seem to cycle. At times
19 the chemistry is not right.

20 COMMISSIONER BERNTHAL: This is not water chemistry.

21 MR. REED: No, this is the chemistry of the
22 personnel. Dresden has gone through periods where it has
23 performed quite well and then it will get a lot on its platter
24 and do poorly. A part of where we are going with our
25 organization here with attention to detail and our top managers

1 looking in great detail is we cannot allow that to happen
2 again. Whether it is resources or whatever is needed, we think
3 we are not going to let our plants fall below our standards for
4 excellence.

5 COMMISSIONER BERNTHAL: Thank you very much.

6 CHAIRMAN ZECH: I have a question on the model spaces
7 program. You commented briefly on it. I trust you are going
8 to continue that program. Why don't you describe it a little
9 bit for us. I'd like to hear your intentions to continue it.
10 It does seem like an excellent program and one you have put a
11 lot of attention into. Why don't you describe it a little bit?
12 I would like to hear about your intentions for the future.

13 MR. FITZPATRICK: What we tried to do initially was
14 come up with an objective model so we could show people what
15 the standard was. It's very difficult to explain in words. We
16 figured if we could take a space and clean it from the top to
17 the bottom and paint it out from the top to the bottom, we
18 could use it as an objective demonstration of what we expected
19 the rest of the plant to look like.

20 We started with the make up demineralizer room, which
21 is a difficult space to start with because you have a lot of
22 acid and caustic skids in that particular space, and we did
23 just that. We cleaned it from top from bottom, we painted it
24 from the top to the bottom.

25 We used that as a demonstration. We took all our

1 plant people through that space, including the clerical people,
2 and said, this is our standard at Braidwood Station and what we
3 expect our spaces to look like. We expanded the program on a
4 priority type basis, picked up additional spaces, and we are
5 continuing to move in that direction.

6 Our intention is to in the enclosed spaces, make all
7 of them look exactly like the first model space, which is an
8 enclosed space. Some of the more wide open areas in the
9 auxiliary building, of course, will be done all the way around,
10 ceilings, walls and floor. In the turbine building, we won't
11 go quite that extensive, we don't intend to paint the ceiling
12 in our turbine building. There will be treatment done in the
13 turbine building that will be very similar. The turbine
14 building right now on two levels looks just like the model
15 space, except not quite as extensive.

16 Our intent is to continue that effort throughout the
17 plant.

18 CHAIRMAN ZECH: Good. One last question on Unit I
19 and Unit II. You have different tasks being performed on both
20 those units now. You mentioned earlier you figured you have
21 the wherewithal and the management skills and experience
22 capability to do that.

23 I would expect you to say that. I would just say it
24 is a challenge. I hope you have enough personnel and you have
25 looked at that rather carefully. With the power ascension of

1 Unit I and the pre-operational testing of Unit II, you are
2 doing different things and you need different kinds of people.
3 it is a challenge. I presume you have figured you have looked
4 at that carefully and you are ready to meet it.

5 MR. FITZPATRICK: We have looked at that. We intend
6 to continue to look at it. You can set out the best of
7 schedules but that will have to be looked at on a day by day,
8 shift by shift basis.

9 CHAIRMAN ZECH: Yes, you will have to watch it
10 continuously. Any other questions from my fellow
11 Commissioners?

12 COMMISSIONER BERNTHAL: I would just make one
13 comment. I have mentioned the preventive maintenance thing. I
14 would urge you to establish a goal, a fairly aggressive goal,
15 for ratio of preventive maintenance. A number of utilities
16 have done that. When I hear 80 percent, frankly, I'm
17 surprised. When you think about 30 to 50 percent, that
18 basically means you are going to wait for half the things to
19 break. Based on what one sees in Japan and elsewhere and I
20 know some of you have been to Japan and other countries and you
21 know the vast majority of their effort is spent on preventive
22 maintenance and it pays off.

23 It is just a thought. I thought this was a fairly
24 commonly accepted theorem at this point. I don't want to over
25 simplify it. It is sort of like changing florescent lights,

1 when you are in a big building, you do it all at once. You
2 just do it because you don't want to wait for each one to burn
3 out separately. That's an over simplification.

4 MR. REED: We will do that, Commissioner Bernthal. I
5 will feed back to you what we think that goal is.

6 COMMISSIONER BERNTHAL: I think INPO has some general
7 policy directions in that regard, although I am not familiar
8 with them in detail.

9 CHAIRMAN ZECH: Anything else?

10 [No response.]

11 CHAIRMAN ZECH: Thank you very much. We appreciate
12 it. We will ask the staff to come forward now, please.

13 [Pause.]

14 CHAIRMAN ZECH: Mr. Stello, you may proceed.

15 MR. STELLO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

16 I will introduce Tom Murley, the Director of NRR, and
17 Bert Davis, our Region III Administrator, and they in turn will
18 introduce other people who will be making the presentations.

19 There are two brief points that I think are important
20 that I wanted to make at the outset. One is that we're here
21 because we are now satisfied that all the requirements
22 necessary for the issuance of the license have been met, and
23 we're prepared to go forward.

24 But there's another point that I think is important,
25 and it's one that the Commission was discussing a moment ago

1 with the Licensee that I wanted to also bring up, and that is
2 to make sure that the Commission understands that we are fully
3 aware that a number of plants at this facility will represent
4 as -- I think the tenth in operation within the company, and
5 that is a fairly substantial responsibility that we are -- and
6 I will ask Bert later to identify some of the things that we
7 will do to assure that all of those plants have an even and
8 steady period of operation and that we can see that the trends
9 are clearly there to improve.

10 But more significantly, we are going to be very
11 careful to watch when we see indications that the experience
12 that we saw with Dresden, where they were backing off, and we
13 are going to try to make sure that we can identify that early
14 and bring that to the Licensee's attention to avoid periods of
15 uneven operation for which they're clearly -- I think Mr. Reed
16 correctly pointed out that that does happen, and I think the
17 important thing is to recognize that it is happening and turn
18 that around carefully.

19 I have asked Bert, who will later bring up some
20 examples of some of the things that we are doing, and we spent
21 a great deal of time concerning ourselves with that issue and
22 will continue to do so in the future.

23 With that, I'll ask Tom Murley to begin.

24 MR. MURLEY: Yes. Jan Stevens, the Project Manager,
25 will talk about the plant design and the licensing aspects, and

1 then Chuck Norelius from the Region will talk about
2 construction and startup testing and progress.

3 I should say, I was out at the plant last week, and
4 Bert and I spent the day walking around the plant with his
5 staff and the Senior Resident Inspector, and so I've got some
6 observations that I'd like to share at the end as well.

7 CHAIRMAN ZECH: Fine. Thank you.

8 MR. MURLEY: Jan?

9 MS. STEVENS: Good afternoon.

10 CHAIRMAN ZECH: Good afternoon.

11 MS. STEVENS: Commonwealth Edison is the owner and
12 operator of Braidwood Station, as well as five other nuclear
13 stations. Siting -- there is no unique siting features for
14 this facility.

15 Could I have Slide 2, please?

16 [Slide.]

17 All the emergency planning onsite and offsite
18 licensing requirements have been completed at this time. A
19 full participation emergency exercise was conducted on November
20 6th of 1985. No deficiencies were identified during this
21 exercise.

22 A partial emergency exercise was conducted on March
23 18th of this year. Two minor deficiencies were identified, and
24 they have been subsequently resolved by FEMA.

25 COMMISSIONER ASSELSTINE: Who participated in the

1 partial exercise?

2 MS. STEVENS: It was full participation by the State
3 of Indiana, partial by the State of Illinois, and several
4 counties also participated.

5 COMMISSIONER ASSELSTINE: Okay. Thank you.

6 MS. STEVENS: The two deficiencies had to do with
7 problems with the participation by Kankakee County.

8 Slide 3, please.

9 [Slide.]

10 Braidwood Station is a standard four-loop
11 Westinghouse PWR. The architect engineer was Sargent & Lundy,
12 and Commonwealth Edison served as the general contractor. It
13 uses a Westinghouse nuclear steam supply system, which has a
14 rated power of 3411 megawatt thermal. The containment consists
15 of a reinforced concrete cylinder with a steel liner. It has
16 sufficient free volume to preclude the need for any pressure
17 suppression devices.

18 There are no unique design features for this
19 facility, but it is important to note that it is a duplicate
20 plant design with Byron Station, as has been noted previously.

21 The applications for the licenses for both Byron and
22 Braidwood were filed under the standardization policy of 1978,
23 specifically the duplicate plant option. The duplicate design
24 features include the Westinghouse nuclear steam supply systems,
25 the balance-of-plant systems, as well as associated auxiliary

1 systems.

2 The site-specific features include certain site-
3 related characteristics, changes from the Byron Station design,
4 and utility-oriented safety-related matters. The site-related
5 characteristics include seismology, hydrology, meteorology, and
6 certain foundation engineering issues. The changes from the
7 Byron Station design include offsite power systems, just due to
8 the different locations on the grid and the water systems due
9 to the different sources of water. The essential service water
10 and ultimate heat sinks are provided by a cooling pond for
11 Braidwood Station versus cooling towers for Byron Station.

12 COMMISSIONER ASSELSTINE: As a practical matter, how
13 much difference is there in terms of the hardware in the plant?
14 Pretty much identical?

15 MS. STEVENS: Very identical. Like I said, the major
16 difference is due to the different sources of water and the
17 ultimate heat sinks and essential service water.

18 COMMISSIONER ASSELSTINE: Right.

19 MS. STEVENS: Slide 4.

20 [Slide.]

21 The evidentiary hearing was conducted for two
22 separate contentions, emergency planning and harassment and
23 intimidation. The hearings commenced on October 29, 1985 and
24 were completed on November 26th of '86. Their official record
25 was closed, then, on December 17th of '86.

1 The hearing for the emergency planning contention
2 spanned three hearing days, and the QA contentions spanned a
3 total of 97 hearing days.

4 The initial decision issued by the Board on emergency
5 planning was issued on May 13th of this year, and the initial
6 decision on the harassment and and other discrimination issue
7 was issued on May 19th. The ASLB decision authorized issuance
8 of the full-power license pending Commission approval.

9 A Notice of Appeal has been received by the
10 Intervenors on June 1 concerning the ASLB decision on
11 harassment and other discrimination.

12 The licensing milestones include the following. The
13 construction permit was issued on December 31st of 1975. A zero
14 power license was issued on October 17th of '86. This was a
15 special license issued under 10 CFR 50.57(c) due to the impact
16 of the hearing process on licensing.

17 Fuel loading was completed on November 3rd of '85. A
18 low-power license was issued on May 21st of this year following
19 the ASLB decision, and initial criticality was achieved on May
20 29th.

21 Slide 5, please.

22 [Slide.]

23 There are two exemptions noted in the license for
24 Braidwood Station. One concerns a criticality alarm system,
25 and the other concerns the containment airlock testing. Both

1 of these are found in most licenses today.

2 The only plant-specific license condition concerns
3 Reg Guide 1.97. The preliminary evaluation of this review has
4 been submitted, and a final report will be submitted within six
5 months of our approval of the DCRDR report. It was tied to the
6 DCRDR review.

7 Slide 6, please.

8 [Slide.]

9 There is a total of 1,341 personnel at the station.
10 The operators are on 8 hour shifts with a total of 6 crews.
11 The shift composition is as noted in the table. You will
12 notice that actual staffing exceeds the tech spec requirements
13 in each case. There are a total of 63 licensed operators. As
14 I note on the slide, the Braidwood operating experience is
15 enhanced by individuals who have actual operating experience at
16 Byron. The Byron shift advisors, which were required on Byron
17 Unit I, are being used at Braidwood, although they are not
18 required at Braidwood.

19 Also some of the Braidwood operators actually
20 received their hot functional testing at the Byron site as well
21 as the Zion site. One of the shift foremen at Braidwood was
22 formerly a SCRE at Byron.

23 COMMISSIONER ASSELSTINE: They have at least an SRO
24 with the sufficient hot operating experience and then they are
25 using the advisors as well?

1 MS. STEVENS: That's right; voluntarily. At least
2 one per shift at this time.

3 COMMISSIONER BERNTHAL: How often do they rotate
4 shifts as a matter of curiosity? Is it sort of a standard two
5 weeks or weekly?

6 MS. STEVENS: I'm not sure I can answer that. I know
7 they have two crews on each of the day shifts and one in the
8 evening shift and then they have one that is always in
9 training.

10 CHAIRMAN ZECH: We can ask the licensee.

11 MR. MURLEY: We have our Senior Resident Inspector,
12 too.

13 MR. FITZPATRICK: Essentially rotation is on a weekly
14 basis.

15 CHAIRMAN ZECH: Thank you.

16 MS. STEVENS: At this time, Bert Davis and Chuck
17 Norelius will continue the discussion.

18 CHAIRMAN ZECH: Thank you very much.

19 MR. NORELIUS: I would like to introduce a couple
20 other Region III people before I start. Bill Little is the
21 Director of our Braidwood Project. Tom Tongue is the Senior
22 Resident for Operations. Wayne Kropp is the Senior Resident
23 for Construction.

24 CHAIRMAN ZECH: Thank you.

25 [Slide.]

1 MR. NORELIUS: To give a little bit of the
2 construction history at the Braidwood site, Braidwood
3 essentially began their construction in about 1975. There was
4 a work stoppage in late 1979/1980, which I think may have
5 contributed to some of the problems that came up after that.
6 Any time you have a stoppage, there is a discontinuity in
7 records. Re-staffing is a problem. I think that may have
8 contributed to some of the problems we found in early 1982.

9 At that time, deficiencies were discovered in that
10 written and approved procedures had not been used for the
11 installation and inspection of major safety related mechanical
12 equipment. That was an issue for which we issued a civil
13 penalty of \$100,000 and that at this point has been the only
14 escalated enforcement action taken at the Braidwood site.

15 The company did develop a rather comprehensive
16 program of corrective action for that particular issue at that
17 time.

18 In 1983 and 1984, we identified other construction
19 deficiencies. I guess the most significant one had to do with
20 the question of the verification of whether correct material
21 was used for piping. That again resulted in a substantial
22 corrective action program, including inspection by the National
23 Board of Boiler and Pressure Vessels and a number of things the
24 utility did.

25 At the conclusion of that, we decided that the

1 hardware problems were not really that substantial. We did not
2 issue an escalated enforcement action when all was said and
3 done.

4 The company did develop a multitude of corrective
5 action programs during that time to address all of the problems
6 that had been identified by us and their own QA organization.

7 We conducted some major inspections, the construction
8 appraisal team, conducted by the Office of Inspection and
9 Enforcement, in late 1984 and 1985. While they found several
10 individual violations, they concluded there was not a
11 programmatic type of breakdown that related to construction.

12 We had the NE VAN which was there in the Spring of
13 1984 and again while they found a few violations, they were
14 basically satisfied with the results of their findings as well.

15 The independent design review was done a little
16 differently at the Braidwood site. We had performed an
17 independent design inspection at Byron, a duplicate site, and
18 an independent design review by a contractor who looked also at
19 Byron and separately at Clinton, which has the same architect
20 engineers, Sargent & Lundy. For the Braidwood station, they
21 took all of the problems that were identified in these other
22 inspections and submitted to us a plan for addressing the
23 corrective actions and then a team went out from Headquarters
24 to assure they had taken the corrective actions. That is the
25 way that area was handled at the Braidwood site. We were

1 satisfied with their actions.

2 The major action undertaken by the utility to give
3 added assurance as to the adequacy of construction was the BCAP
4 program, Braidwood construction assessment program. They
5 commented generally on what it involved. I might just
6 elaborate a little more.

7 There were three basic elements to that program. One
8 was to go back and inspect a sample of completed work to assure
9 that past work had been done properly. The second was to
10 review procedures of all the contractors they had on-site, to
11 assure they had in them the appropriate design specifications.
12 That was more forward looking, to assure that work from that
13 point on would be done properly. Third, they reviewed a sample
14 of the major corrective action programs that they had ongoing
15 separate from BCAP, to give it an overview, to assure those
16 programs would in fact correct the problems and lead to a
17 proper conclusion.

18 That program was carried out by inspectors who had
19 not been involved in the original work. It was performed under
20 the Commonwealth Edison QA program. In addition, they had an
21 independent overview committee, a group from a consultant,
22 Evaluation Research Corporation, which independently overviewed
23 that program.

24 As far as the Region is concerned, we assigned one
25 full-time inspector to overview the BCAP program and he was on

1 that assignment for about one year. We also had specialist
2 inspectors who reviewed the Sargent & Lundy resolution of
3 deficiencies that were identified with that program, to assure
4 we agreed with the resolution of those.

5 We also conducted monthly public meetings with the
6 utility to review the results on an ongoing basis so we kept
7 track of that. We felt that was a good program and did in fact
8 satisfy the goal of giving added assurance that the
9 construction at Braidwood was adequate.

10 With regard to allegations, since 1983 we've had
11 about 68 total allegation files. Ten of those remain open.
12 Five are open because of OI considerations, and one has to do
13 with the Department of Labor. In all cases, we have looked at
14 the technical details, the technical allegations that have been
15 involved and have satisfied ourselves that there are no safety
16 issues which remain open at this time.

17 Could I have the next slide?

18 [Slide.]

19 The preoperational startup testing has gone very well
20 at Braidwood. They mentioned their schedule, and I would not
21 reiterate the schedule, but just say that in our experience, I
22 think it's probably the best we have seen in terms of setting
23 out a schedule for the final year of operation and meeting that
24 schedule. We think they did an excellent job in that area.

25 They also talked, I believe, about their dedicated

1 startup organization. Just a few points there. They had 30
2 people in that group. It was headed by an Assistant
3 Superintendent with a Braidwood SRO license. We felt that this
4 was positive in taking a lot of the burden off the operating
5 and technical staff for planning related to startups. We
6 thought that was very positive in that program.

7 We did give them a Category 1 rating in the pre-op
8 testing area in our last SALP report.

9 Could I have the next slide, please.

10 [Slide.]

11 This is a summary of the last SALP report, and this
12 was for the period of December 1985 through November of 1986.
13 There were three areas where we gave them Category 1 ratings.
14 I've already mentioned the pre-operational testing area. We
15 also give them a 1 in operational readiness, and this was
16 related to their planning for fuel loading and the actual
17 loading of fuel that was involved. Their error-free operation
18 plan that they had initiated early on, their scheduling, their
19 control room decorum, if you will, the way they handle
20 activities in the control room, we thought those were all
21 positive indicators, and we gave them a Category 1 in that
22 rating.

23 The other area had to do with the quality control and
24 administrative controls, and that was basically given to them
25 because of the management changes that they made to plan for

1 and carry out the multiple activities, and I believe they
2 discussed most of those with you when they were up here, so
3 I'll not repeat those.

4 COMMISSIONER BERNTHAL: Could I just focus on maybe
5 one of those or two?

6 One would think with their large organization and
7 capability -- for example, training and qualification ought to
8 be 1 instead of a 2. Why is it a 2?

9 MR. NORELIUS: I believe at the time we looked into
10 the pass rate of operators during that particular SALP period,
11 and that was about at the national average at that point in
12 time.

13 [Whereupon, at 3:10 o'clock, p.m., Commissioner
14 Roberts left the hearing room.]

15 COMMISSIONER BERNTHAL: I see. So that was the
16 predominant -- that's the predominant indicator that you use?

17 MR. NORELIUS: Well, we look at a number of things.
18 We have looked at their aggressiveness in meeting the INPO
19 schedule in terms of submittal. We tend to look at feedback
20 that goes from how they handle events and how that gets fed
21 back into the operating area or maintenance.

22 So in part, of course you're dealing with a time when
23 the plant was not operating there, so in that area, we probably
24 did not have a lot of data on which to base a judgment.

25 MR. DAVIS: The other thing that we consider more in

1 operating plants than this one is the personnel errors. That's
2 another factor, in addition to those that Chuck said.

3 COMMISSIONER BERNTHAL: Let me pick one more. What
4 about security? What does that mean? Why is that a 2 instead
5 of a 1? Is that just based on the number of events that come
6 through to the monitor or the duty officer or what?

7 MR. NORELIUS: Normally we would look at the
8 organization as it's set up, the corporate security support,
9 the site security group.

10 COMMISSIONER ASSELSTINE: Regulatory performance?

11 MR. NORELIUS: Yes, except again, at this point,
12 before they have the license, they don't have a regulatory
13 basis, so we tend to look at where there are weaknesses in
14 staffing up. Just prior to the issuance of the license and
15 shortly thereafter, Braidwood did have some security events,
16 and there were some weaknesses that we had identified in the
17 program.

18 COMMISSIONER BERNTHAL: One other question, a page
19 back here, I guess, but is your broad judgment that this
20 dedicated startup organization has been a great assist here? I
21 would think so and hope so.

22 [Whereupon, at 3:12 o'clock, p.m., Commissioner
23 Roberts reentered the hearing room.]

24 MR. NORELIUS: Yes. I think this was the first plant
25 where we had seen that done that way. They also did another

1 thing in the construction side. They had appointed a Unit 1
2 Construction Manager and a Unit 2 Construction Manager, which
3 seemed to give more organizational management attention to
4 construction.

5 They also had a project startup -- project test
6 group, which helped them -- and that was a separate group, and
7 that helped them make the transition in getting systems from
8 construction through pre-op testing to operations.

9 And so yes, we thought that this and their other
10 organizations were rather innovative and positive.

11 COMMISSIONER CARR: What happens to the startup team
12 after they're through starting up?

13 MR. NORELIUS: As I recall, they have moved -- they
14 moved some people from the project organization, some they
15 integrated into the plant, but some have gone over to work now
16 on the Unit 2 startup. But beyond that, you may have to ask
17 the utility.

18 CHAIRMAN ZECH: All right. Proceed.

19 MR. NORELIUS: We can go to the next slide, please.

20 [Slide.]

21 The fuel loading and initial criticality were handled
22 very well at the Braidwood Station and really without any
23 incident at all.

24 We did an operational readiness team inspection at
25 the site during the first week of June, and we had seven

1 inspectors, including specialists from our office, and three
2 Senior Resident Inspectors. We had the Senior Resident from
3 Callaway and Byron, like plants, and also from the Kewaunee
4 plant, which has had a good operating record. And the team
5 looked at operations, maintenance, nuclear engineering,
6 radiation protection and chemistry activities.

7 While they had some suggestions in areas that they
8 gave to the plant to look at and follow up, the overall
9 conclusion was that the plant was in really good shape and
10 ready for getting a full-power license. They came away very
11 pleased, and it was a rather positive report.

12 There have been no major LERs, Licensee Event Reports
13 that have been issued. There were a couple that I might just
14 mention that we followed, some during the period when they were
15 waiting between getting the fuel in the pot and getting the
16 reactor going.

17 At one point, the lost component cooling water which
18 gave them a loss of the residual heat removal system, and this
19 was caused by a problem with a valve that leaked by and an
20 alarm that did not work at an appropriate level. That's been
21 reviewed in terms of design concerns, as well as their
22 corrective action, and we're satisfied with that at this time.

23 They had another one where they were doing some
24 cleaning in the cable-spreading room over the reactor, over the
25 control room, and water backed up and ran over and got some of

1 the instrumentation wet, and that was of some concern. And
2 they took actions to modify their system for assuring that
3 drains are unplugged that could affect control room operations.

4 Then another issue related to rocker arms in the
5 diesel generators that exhibited some cracking. This came
6 about because of -- there was a seizure of what they call
7 crossheads in the diesels that caused the initial problem.
8 Upon investigation, Cooper-Besmer indicated that some of the
9 replacement rocker arms had a lower tensile strength and
10 therefore may have caused some of that cracking or have
11 contributed to it. And they had a couple of other failures
12 that were unexplained later on.

13 We were involved in reviewing that, as was the Vendor
14 Branch from Headquarters in Cooper-Besmer, and they replaced
15 those that indicated cracking, and they then went back, and
16 they have since done the 100-hour runs which were recommended
17 by Cooper-Besmer. They were inspected after that time and
18 found not to exhibit further cracking, and the vendor believes
19 they are satisfactory. The utility is planning, however, to
20 replace those with the lower tensile strength, and they have
21 ordered those replacement parts. They just arrived onsite
22 today, I believe, or late last week.

23 And so we will be following the replacement of those
24 and make sure there is not any further problem with the diesel
25 generators.

1 Subsequent to the criticality, I think there was one
2 LER, one event that we thought had some significance. They had
3 the main steam isolation valve, one of them, that was gagged
4 shut while they were working on it, and the gag did not hold it
5 shut, and it came open. This cleared an alarm in the control
6 room which, although an operator recognized the change in
7 condition, he talked to someone who had just been down in the
8 area and had seen the gag on it and said, "That can't be,
9 because it's gagged shut," and as a result, which I think is
10 really a communications problem, they violated some of their
11 limiting conditions for operation timewise.

12 And so that is an issue where we are still reviewing
13 it and have not yet determined the appropriate enforcement
14 action.

15 Overall, I don't think you can compare LERs to other
16 plants because the time involved with this station has been so
17 much different. As a generality, comparing it to Byron I, I
18 would say I would think they are better than Byron Unit I was.
19 They are not as good as Byron Unit II was. That might be
20 expected with the new plant and with new people involved.

21 That is sort of how we would see their events.

22 Overall, with regard to Unit I, I would say that is
23 in a higher state of operational readiness than any other plant
24 I have seen in the last four or five years. I think it is
25 ready to go. The time that they couldn't operate probably

1 helped them in a sense in getting a lot of backlog caught up
2 and those things. We believe they are ready to go.

3 You expressed questions to them about how they were
4 managing Unit I versus Unit II. They have described that
5 program for you. The only thing I would add is we are aware of
6 that concern also. We are planning augmented inspection
7 coverage as soon as the license is approved and they begin
8 their power ascension testing. This will include some around
9 the clock coverage and after we do that for a few days, we will
10 back down to something less than that, but where we will still
11 cover all the shift turnovers for several more days until we
12 feel comfortable they are doing that.

13 Our residents also have and will continue to attend
14 their plan of the day meeting. If they think there is too much
15 that is going on, they will feel free to raise that issue with
16 the utility.

17 MR. DAVIS: Also, Chuck, I think we decided that if
18 on the plan of the day meeting, we saw a lot of activity on
19 Unit I and Unit II at the same time, we would go back onto the
20 shifts.

21 MR. NORELIUS: Right.

22 MR. DAVIS: Vic asked me to say a few words on what
23 we are going to be doing to try to make sure that the
24 Commonwealth operating plants don't go back into sine waves or
25 cycles as Mr. Reed said.

1 I guess there are a number of things. You are aware
2 of the management meetings that Mr. Stello has, where we
3 concentrate on the plants that need further attention. That
4 will direct us towards performing additional inspections, not
5 only regional inspections but NRC inspections at these plants
6 in order to try to diagnose their problems and help to see that
7 the problems get solved.

8 We also, of course, as you know, have reorganized
9 from a regional perspective. I see quite a bit of attention on
10 plants now from NRR, not only via telephone calls but by the
11 presence of NRR people in the region and at the plants.

12 From the regional perspective, we are doing several
13 things. With our workload on pre-operational testing of plants
14 going down, it provides the management and the inspectors with
15 more time to spend on operating plants. The rather large crew
16 that we had in a section that was applied to pre-operational
17 testing now can be put into monitoring operations. We are
18 continuing something that we began a couple of years ago and I
19 think probably it began mostly with Byron I, and that is to
20 have periodic meetings at the branch chief level with plants,
21 to review their performance and generally most of our plants
22 have performance indicator books now that they publish monthly.

23 We plan to do that on a monthly basis, particularly
24 with the new plants and those plants that are having problems.
25 In addition, either Mr. Norelius or my Deputy Regional

1 Administrator or I intend to participate in those meetings
2 quarterly, unless it is indicated more frequently, and there is
3 one plant in the region now that I am planning to meet monthly
4 on.

5 That is the type of thing we will do in order to try
6 to make sure the plants don't go through adverse cycles.

7 CHAIRMAN ZECH: Do you have a conclusion to give us?

8 MR. STELLO:- Mr. Murley is going to give that and he
9 has some additional comments.

10 CHAIRMAN ZECH: Fine.

11 MR. MURLEY: I would mention that Bert and I kicked
12 around the plant Saturday. There were some observations I
13 would like to share.

14 We mentioned earlier and we have learned from
15 experience that we can see good performance and poor
16 performance within the same company. The key, I believe, is
17 the station manager. Here, I'm satisfied that Mr. Fitzpatrick
18 is setting the right tone for the plant. I think all the signs
19 that we saw or I saw is he is on top of the activities at the
20 plant, he is clearly following the details. He has given his
21 staff the right kind of guidance, putting safety first and so
22 forth. We sensed a positive attitude and they are responsive
23 to NRC. I find the signs quite good.

24 Another indicator, which I will use because I think
25 some of you have seen it when you were out at the plant, is a

1 device called a microelectronic surveillance and calibration
2 unit, MESAC. It is a self contained unit that you can wheel up
3 and plug into the cabinets to do surveillances. They have
4 developed this. It goes well beyond our regulations. They are
5 quite proud of what they have done. I think it is a good idea.
6 I think it is clearly going to improve safety at that plant.
7 It is something I would recommend be adopted overall.

8 Their experience is it cuts down surveillance testing
9 time by about a factor of ten, from 1,000 hours to 200 hours a
10 month, since there is no lifted leads and that sort of thing.
11 There is much less opportunity for human error in surveillance
12 testing. That is a thing that we find contributes to a number
13 of events and accidents at plants.

14 COMMISSIONER BERNTHAL: If that is as good as you say
15 it is, why doesn't everyone have one?

16 MR. MURLEY: Somebody has to do it first, I think.
17 My understanding is that Westinghouse is developing it for
18 sale. I suspect we will see it marketed. It is such a good
19 idea that I can't imagine it won't get done. I wish we had the
20 foresight to put it in our regulations.

21 I have one potential concern, and it has been
22 mentioned. I will just reiterate it. Escalating power of Unit
23 I, while they are in the last stages of pre-op testing and
24 getting ready for start-up of Unit II, is going to be a
25 challenging job. They intend to load fuel, as you probably

1 know, in December of this year. Keeping on top of that is a
2 challenge for any one person. In fact, either the power
3 escalation or the pre-op testing can demand full time of one
4 individual.

5 As Bert said, we won't hesitate if we see anything
6 developing to step in and make sure the operation of Unit I
7 takes first priority.

8 Our conclusion is the licensee satisfies all
9 requirements for the issuance of a full power license for
10 Braidwood Unit I.

11 CHAIRMAN ZECH: Thank you very much. Any questions
12 from my fellow Commissioners? Commissioner Roberts?

13 COMMISSIONER ROBERTS: No.

14 CHAIRMAN ZECH: Commissioner Asselstine?

15 COMMISSIONER ASSELSTINE: I guess one of the things I
16 would like to do is get a sense both from you, Bert, and from
17 you, Tom, as well, for your evaluation and assessment of
18 Commonwealth's system-wide performance now. We talked a bit
19 about this five months or so ago. I would be interested in
20 your assessment of what the trends are and in particular, I
21 would be interested in your evaluation of Dresden, where you
22 think we stand now on Dresden.

23 MR. MURLEY: Let me mention from our perspective, we
24 talked quite a bit about this in our management discussions. I
25 get back to my emphasis on plant managers. I think from what I

1 have seen so far, a lot depends in the Commonwealth system on
2 the plant manager himself, the station manager. They have a
3 fair amount of autonomy. We see mixed results. I think we are
4 going to be taking a look at Dresden pretty carefully. I don't
5 know the causes there. I'm too new to it. Certainly, there
6 are some problems there.

7 MR. DAVIS: I guess I could give you my perspective
8 on the different plants. I will start with Dresden. Dresden's
9 performance has not been good, as explained by Mr. Reed. They
10 have made a number of changes in order to improve. Those
11 changes include the changes from corporate management that Mr.
12 Reed discussed as well as a number of changes at the plant.
13 They have changed the plant manager. They switched the
14 Assistant Superintendent of Operations, and the Assistant
15 Superintendent of Planning. They have brought in an Assistant
16 Superintendent for Maintenance from Quad Cities. They have
17 added a QC Supervisor, an INPO Coordinator, a new master
18 mechanic and several others. They have made a number of
19 changes at the plant. In addition to that, they have a number
20 of corrective action programs that are underway.

21 With respect to improvement in performance, I guess
22 my view is the jury is still out. I see improvements in
23 housekeeping. I see improvements in radiation protection. I
24 see the possibility of improvements based on these programs
25 they have but I would rather wait and watch them before I make

1 a comment any further than that.

2 With respect to Quad Cities, it has been a good
3 performer for the last couple of years. We have just mailed
4 out a SALP report the other day that the company may or may not
5 have received yet. It was a good SALP report. It had three
6 Category 1's, in radiological control, surveillance and
7 licensing activities and the rest Category 2. Quad Cities has
8 not been a plant of concern to me lately.

9 Byron, you heard Mr. Reed talk about Byron. I think
10 I would agree with most of what he said. Byron I got off to a
11 poor start. The Region put a lot of attention on Byron I to
12 help improve it. I think the performance on Byron II is a
13 reflection of the success of turning that situation around.

14 LaSalle, we had major concerns with LaSalle a couple
15 of years ago. We spent a lot of time with the company on
16 LaSalle. In fact, Mr. O'Conner himself got involved. The last
17 SALP that we wrote on LaSalle was very good. It showed major
18 improvements.

19 LaSalle I still think bears watching, because
20 although it showed major improvements, I sometimes think maybe
21 our SALP ratings were influenced by the amount of improvement,
22 rather than exactly where they are. So although I support the
23 SALP ratings, I feel that we need to continue to watch LaSalle.

24 With respect to Zion, I spent a day at Zion here a
25 couple of weeks ago with Mr. Reed and Mr. Maimon, Mr. Maimon

1 being the new Vice President there, and we toured the plant.
2 The reason I did that was, in some meetings that my staff had
3 had, these monthly meetings that I was talking about, why there
4 were some concerns raised that I felt that I wanted to tour the
5 plant with Mr. Reed and Mr. Maimon.

6 My view -- and I had been to LaSalle about a year
7 before -- I'm sorry -- Zion about a year before. My general
8 conclusion after the tour was that Zion had improved over what
9 it was a year before, but the rate of improvement was not as I
10 would like it to be. At the rate that I saw, it would take too
11 many years to get it up to the point where it should be.

12 I think Mr. Maimon and Mr. Reed agreed with that, and
13 I think they intend to try to increase the slope of
14 improvement. So that's kind of my assessment of the plants.

15 COMMISSIONER ASSELSTINE: Okay. How about the
16 regulatory performance, say, over the past six months or so?
17 Any civil penalties; any major enforcement actions on the
18 Commonwealth system?

19 MR. DAVIS: Well, we had a civil penalty at -- I
20 can't remember the last -- we had one at Dresden for an
21 uncontrolled heat-up with the containment open.

22 We had a civil penalty action at Byron probably more
23 than six months ago, although I'm not sure, where they put a
24 valve together improperly.

25 MR. NORELIUS: I think that was for an older issue.

1 The recent civil penalty issued at Byron was for an issue that
2 occurred back maybe 18 months, a year to 18 months ago.
3 There's been intervening correspondence back and forth. But
4 the Dresden one is more recent.

5 COMMISSIONER ASSELSTINE: In terms of the management
6 changes that Cordell Reed described, it sounds as if those are
7 responsive to the kinds of concerns that we've had for some
8 time, but I'd be interested in your assessment.

9 What do you think those are going to do? Do you view
10 them as a positive change? Are they going to address some of
11 the concerns that we've had about the overall system management
12 over the past several years? Does it give you a higher comfort
13 level in terms of the overall quality and depth of management
14 attention that's going to be brought to bear to these operating
15 plants?

16 MR. DAVIS: The answer is yes. I see this as an
17 improvement. I saw the institution of the Division Vice
18 Presidents that Mr. Reed talked about as an improvement, and I
19 think they caused -- they've been in effect for awhile, and I
20 think they have caused some improvements to occur at the
21 plants.

22 In my judgment, the recent change that they made with
23 Mr. Maimon, who I think has demonstrated success at Byron, and
24 he's been certainly involved in the Braidwood successes lately,
25 I think that's a good move, to have somebody of his caliber and

1 experience and demonstrated successes take over part of the
2 plants. And then that allows a smaller number of plants to be
3 under Mr. Gally. And I think it's a step in the right
4 direction.

5 Now is it enough to have two people at that level
6 with the total number of plants? I guess you have to wait and
7 see. But I think it's an improvement.

8 COMMISSIONER ASSELSTINE: Just a couple of questions
9 on the SER. In the fourth supplement, fire protection is
10 listed as an open item. That's the last supplement in the
11 draft, in the book.

12 Could you tell me what's still open on fire
13 protection?

14 MS. STEVENS: It's listed as a license condition, and
15 that's strictly referring to the generic license condition out
16 of 8610.

17 COMMISSIONER ASSELSTINE: Okay.

18 MS. STEVENS: Some Project Managers do not list it as
19 such, but I have it formally listed in my SER.

20 COMMISSIONER ASSELSTINE: Okay. And also on that
21 supplement on page 6-1, there's some discussion of the
22 atmospheric cleanup systems, and apparently the charcoal
23 adsorber doesn't satisfy some of the ANSI standards.

24 How much are we giving up by not satisfying their
25 original license commitment?

1 MS. STEVENS: I have asked Jack Hayes, my Technical
2 Reviewer in this area, to be here today, thinking he might be
3 able to address that.

4 COMMISSIONER ASSELSTINE: Great.

5 MS. STEVENS: Jack?

6 COMMISSIONER ASSELSTINE: I guess what I'm
7 particularly interested in is how close to the 5 rem dose you
8 get to, given the --

9 MR. HAYES: The charcoal adsorber system that is
10 utilized is for the thyroid dose, and the major means of
11 cleaning up the control room ventilation system is the
12 emergency pressurization system, which is a four-inch deep bed
13 system. The system which we're talking about here and
14 referring to in the supplement is the recirculation charcoal
15 adsorber, which was utilized to clean up the remaining portion,
16 the recirculation air and any of the pressurization flow that
17 was sent to the main control room.

18 So the emergency pressurization system still filters
19 99 percent of the incoming air, and the system which is on
20 internal recirculation is still at the 90 percent level.

21 So what we were giving up is -- were the criteria for
22 N-510 is plus or minus 20 percent, we're at around 30 to 34 --
23 well, it's less than 30 percent; it's 28 percent. So the
24 residence time has increased a little bit from a quarter of a
25 second to -- or decreased from a quarter of a second down to

1 .195, so it's a small decrease.

2 COMMISSIONER ASSELSTINE: Great. Thanks.

3 One last question on the SERs. This is a duplicate,
4 as you pointed out.

5 MS. STEVENS: Yes, it is.

6 COMMISSIONER ASSELSTINE: For Byron. When I looked
7 at the SERs, Byron is this much, and Braidwood is this much
8 [indicating], pretty close.

9 MS. STEVENS: What you're missing is --

10 COMMISSIONER ASSELSTINE: What I'm wondering is, what
11 did we gain from standardization here?

12 [Laughter.]

13 MS. STEVENS: What you're missing there is five
14 additional supplements that were issued on Byron, and that's
15 equally that same thickness.

16 COMMISSIONER ASSELSTINE: Okay. So we did gain
17 something?

18 MS. STEVENS: We gained a tremendous amount. And
19 that's not even indicative of the savings, because my initial
20 SER on Braidwood heavily referenced the Byron SER up through
21 Supplement 3. So you'll note on many pages in there, it just
22 simply refers back to the Byron SER, "same as."

23 COMMISSIONER ASSELSTINE: Great.

24 MS. STEVENS: Okay. And then after issuance of my
25 initial SER, it was deemed too difficult to cross-reference

1 between the later Byron supplements, and so in order to have a
2 neat, stand-alone package, both the Byron Project Manager and
3 myself duplicated many of the reviews from that point forward
4 in each of our supplements.

5 But, indeed, there was tremendous savings.

6 COMMISSIONER ASSELSTINE: Good, good.

7 My last point, and I don't have any more questions,
8 Lando; I have just a few comments on the plant.

9 CHAIRMAN ZECH: Go right ahead.

10 COMMISSIONER ASSELSTINE: Generally, I thought -- I'm
11 pretty pleased with what I've heard about the testing and the
12 startup performance of the plant so far. I was pleased when I
13 visited the plant a few months ago at what I saw. I thought
14 that the people were quite good, and I think I was particularly
15 impressed with the site management team at this plant.

16 I agree with your comment, Tom, on this surveillance
17 testing, this automated surveillance testing system. It's a
18 neat idea, and it's something I think that a lot of other folks
19 ought to pick up on, too. It really is a good way to tackle
20 the big problem of surveillance testing errors throughout the
21 industry. I think any time you can avoid having to go in those
22 cabinets and lifting leads, you're much better off, and this
23 system avoids that, and it just really seems to be an excellent
24 idea.

25 I think it's particularly encouraging that the

1 company's -- the plant's staff took the initiative to develop
2 this, and I think that's a good, positive sign.

3 MS. STEVENS: I might make a simple note that my
4 Technical Reviewer happened to stop by my office this morning
5 and specifically asked about this particular system, as he
6 found out about it. He's very interested in discussing this
7 with the utility and getting additional information.

8 COMMISSIONER ASSELSTINE: Yes, it's really a neat
9 system.

10 MS. STEVENS: Yes, it really is.

11 COMMISSIONER ASSELSTINE: And an excellent idea.

12 I thought the appearance and the condition of the
13 plant was quite good as well when I was out there, and I share
14 the comments you made earlier, Lando, on the model space
15 program. It's an excellent idea. It's a good, positive step
16 forward, and it would be nice to get to the point where Dresden
17 looks like the model spaces in Braidwood now.

18 Also, I have the same concern, Tom, that you
19 expressed on the Unit 2 activities in Unit 1. It's quite clear
20 that Unit 2 is moving along quite rapidly, and I think you're
21 absolutely right to pay particular attention to the operation
22 of Unit 1. That has to take priority, and I hope the company
23 will take that to heart as well.

24 Whatever pressures there may be on Unit 2, the good
25 operation of Unit 1 ought to take top priority. It really has

1 to.

2 Maintenance, I guess just one comment in response to
3 Fred's earlier comment. It does seem to me that that scenario
4 could use some additional attention in terms of looking at the
5 role that preventive maintenance ought to play. And I guess I
6 find it a little bit disturbing that the country's largest
7 nuclear utility doesn't yet have a target or a goal on the role
8 that preventive maintenance ought to play.

9 And I guess for myself, that's sort of a further
10 indication that I think there's a continuing need for a
11 stronger regulatory involvement in the maintenance issue.

12 In terms of the overall performance of the company in
13 the nuclear system, I am pleased as well from what I heard from
14 you, Bert, and also from the company. I have been tracking the
15 performance of the Commonwealth plants. I think Byron really
16 is doing well. The change is dramatic from what we saw a
17 couple of years ago when that plant started up. The trends
18 seem to be in the right direction for some of the other units,
19 LaSalle as well, as another one I have been tracking.

20 I do think there is room for improvement at the older
21 stations. I think there is considerable room for improvement
22 at Dresden. I think my own gut reaction has been that for some
23 time at least, the older existing operating plants didn't get
24 as much attention within the Commonwealth system as they should
25 have, particularly probably due to the large construction

1 program that was going on and the focus of attention on that.

2 I think in the past one of the comments we have made
3 has been that at the corporate level, management has been a
4 little thin in terms of numbers. There has been a need to beef
5 that up. I'm encouraged by the management changes that have
6 taken place earlier this month. As you said, Bert, it looks to
7 me as that is responsive to the kinds of concerns we have
8 raised in the past.

9 Maybe just one more note and then I will be quiet
10 until we vote. I would just note that I voted for all of the
11 Commonwealth plants up until this point, going back to LaSalle
12 I, back to my first year on the Commission. Unfortunately, I
13 am not going to be able to vote for this plant because of the
14 Commission's handling of the quality assurance issues. In my
15 mind, there were valid quality assurance issues that should
16 have gone to hearing. The Licensing Board was prepared to go
17 to hearing on them. The fact that the Commission foreclose
18 those issues from litigation forces me to vote against the
19 plant in this case. That is what I will be doing when we get
20 to the vote.

21 I just wanted to give you my overall comments on the
22 plant and on the condition of the plant and people and based
23 upon the meeting today.

24 That is all I have to say.

25 CHAIRMAN ZECH: Commissioner Bernthal?

1 COMMISSIONER BERNTHAL: I would just make the comment
2 that aside from the litigative procedural issue, I believe this
3 will be Commissioner Asselstine's last meeting. He is more
4 lavish with praise than perhaps he might be otherwise because
5 we will have to live with the consequences.

6 [Laughter.]

7 COMMISSIONER BERNTHAL: In any case, for those of us
8 who will still be here, we are sometimes more circumspect. I
9 agree generally with the appraisal Jim has made of the utility
10 and its progress. I think some of the utility management has
11 gotten higher. There may be some others that say we really
12 don't want them to be average because they are the biggest and
13 they ought to be the best, in my judgment. They have resources
14 to be the best. They are now drawing to the close of a
15 construction program which will sap any entity, I think, or
16 would sap any entity, even the biggest.

17 In the years shortly ahead, I would certainly hope
18 and expect that they would also top the list on performance,
19 not just in size.

20 With that, Mr. Chairman, I've had most of my
21 questions answered at this point.

22 CHAIRMAN ZECH: Thank you. Commissioner Carr?

23 COMMISSIONER CARR: No comments, Mr. Chairman.

24 CHAIRMAN ZECH: Let me just make one brief comment on
25 Commissioner Asselstine's last comment on the procedural

1 concern that he has had. As far as I am concerned, the
2 Commission proceeded responsibly and deliberately and carefully
3 and exercised our legal and policy responsibilities on this
4 issue. There were a number of things that had to be looked at
5 very carefully. I think we did that. I think we acted
6 responsibly.

7 There were errors made by various groups as I recall
8 the issue. The majority of us felt we wanted to do the right
9 thing and we looked at it carefully and I believe we did the
10 right thing. I would just like to get that down in the record.

11 Having said that, it is Commissioner Asselstine's
12 last meeting with us on this Commission. No matter how he
13 votes in a minute or two, I would just like to thank him on
14 behalf of all of his colleagues for his service to our country.
15 He has disagreed with us on a number of occasions but I think
16 we have agreed on a number of occasions, too, and probably more
17 than we have disagreed. I would just like to let Commissioner
18 Asselstine know that we all appreciate serving our country with
19 you and we wish you the very best.

20 COMMISSIONER ASSELSTINE: Thank you, Lando.

21 COMMISSIONER BERNTHAL: May I just also say to Jim,
22 your insight and scholarship on the issues and vigorous
23 contributions and debates will be missed.

24 COMMISSIONER ASSELSTINE: Thanks, Fred.

25 CHAIRMAN ZECH: If I may thank the Commonwealth

1 Edison Company for their presentation today and the NRC staff
2 for their presentation also.

3 If I could just summarize very briefly, I believe
4 they have both told us that they believe that upon successful
5 completion of the remaining low power testing, the Braidwood
6 Unit I will have satisfied the requirements for issuance of a
7 full power license.

8 I would like to ask if my fellow Commissioners are
9 ready to vote at this time.

10 [Commissioners responded affirmatively.]

11 CHAIRMAN ZECH: If so, those in favor of issuing an
12 order which discusses the process of the immediate
13 effectiveness review and declares that the Commission has
14 examined the relevant safety findings in the Licensing Board
15 decisions and has decided not to stay the effectiveness of
16 those decisions, and those in favor of authorizing the staff to
17 grant Commonwealth Edison Company a full power operating
18 license for Braidwood Unit I, please signify by saying aye.

19 COMMISSIONER BERNTHAL: Aye.

20 COMMISSIONER ROBERTS: Aye.

21 COMMISSIONER CARR: Aye.

22 CHAIRMAN ZECH: Aye.

23 Opposed?

24 COMMISSIONER ASSELSTINE: No.

25 CHAIRMAN ZECH: The vote is 4 to 1 in favor. The

1 meeting is adjourned.

2 [Whereupon, at 3:50 p.m., the meeting was adjourned.]

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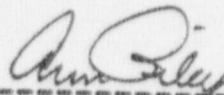
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2 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE
3

4 This is to certify that the attached events of a
5 meeting of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission entitled:
6

7 TITLE OF MEETING: Discussion/Possible Vote on Full Power Operating
8 PLACE OF MEETING: License for Braidwood-1
Washington, D.C.
9 DATE OF MEETING: Tuesday, June 30, 1987
10

11 were held as herein appears, and that this is the original
12 transcript thereof for the file of the Commission taken
13 stenographically by me, thereafter reduced to typewriting by
14 me or under the direction of the court reporting company, and
15 that the transcript is a true and accurate record of the
16 foregoing events.
17

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Ann Riley

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22 Ann Riley & Associates, Ltd.
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6/30/87

SCHEDULING NOTES

TITLE: DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE VOTE ON FULL POWER OPERATING
LICENSE FOR BRAIDWOOD-1

SCHEDULED: 2:00 P.M., TUESDAY, JUNE 30, 1987 (OPEN)

DURATION: APPROX 1-1/2 HRS

PARTICIPANTS: COMMONWEALTH EDISON 20 MINS

- JAMES T. O'CONNER
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD AND
PRESIDENT

- EUGENE E. FITZPATRICK
STATION MANAGER

NRR 15 MINS

- THOMAS MURLEY
- DENNIS CRUTCHFIELD
- JANICE STEVENS

REGION III 15 MINS

- A. BERT DAVIS
- CHARLES NORELIUS

COMMISSION BRIEFING
ON THE
FULL POWER LICENSING
OF
BRAIDWOOD STATION, UNIT 1

JUNE 30, 1987

JANICE A. STEVENS
PROJECT MANAGER
x24993

PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- ° BACKGROUND
- ° PLANT DESIGN
- ° HEARING/LICENSING MILESTONES
- ° LICENSE STATUS
- ° ORGANIZATION/STAFFING
- ° CONSTRUCTION HISTORY
- ° PREOPERATIONAL/STARTUP TESTING
- ° SALP 6 RESULTS
- ° OPERATIONAL READINESS ASSESSMENT
- ° CONCLUSION

BACKGROUND

- ° OWNER AND OPERATOR

- COMMONWEALTH EDISON COMPANY

- ° EXPERIENCE

- OWN AND OPERATE FIVE OTHER NUCLEAR STATIONS

- ° SITING

- LOCATION: NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS, 60 MILES S.W. OF CHICAGO
- POPULATION (1980):
NEAREST TOWN: BRAIDWOOD, ILLINOIS (1 MILE) - 3,429
NEAREST POPULATION CENTER: JOLIET, ILLINOIS (20 MILES) - 77,956
- EMERGENCY PLANNING:
ONSITE AND OFFSITE LICENSING REQUIREMENTS COMPLETED
FULL PARTICIPATION EMERGENCY EXERCISE - NOVEMBER 6, 1985
ANNUAL EMERGENCY EXERCISE (PARTIAL) - MARCH 18, 1987

PLANT DESIGN

° GENERAL

- WESTINGHOUSE PWR (4 LOOP RCS)
- ARCHITECT/ENGINEER: SARGENT AND LUNDY
- GENERAL CONTRACTOR: COMMONWEALTH EDISON

° NSSS CHARACTERISTICS

- RATED POWER: 3411 MWt, 1120 MWe

° CONTAINMENT CHARACTERISTICS

- STEEL-LINED REINFORCED CONCRETE
- FREE VOLUME: 2,700,000 CU. FT.

° DUPLICATE PLANT DESIGN (BYRON/BRAIDWOOD)

- DUPLICATE DESIGN FEATURES:
 - NUCLEAR STEAM SUPPLY SYSTEMS
 - BALANCE OF PLANT SYSTEMS
 - ASSOCIATED AUXILIARY SYSTEMS
- SITE-SPECIFIC FEATURES:
 - SITE-RELATED CHARACTERISTICS
 - CHANGES FROM THE BYRON STATION DESIGN
 - UTILITY-ORIENTED SAFETY-RELATED MATTERS

HEARING/LICENSING MILESTONES

° OL EVIDENTIARY HEARING

- COMMENCED OCTOBER 29, 1985
- COMPLETED NOVEMBER 26, 1986
- RECORD CLOSED DECEMBER 17, 1986
- INITIAL DECISION ON EMERGENCY PLANNING MAY 13, 1987
- INITIAL DECISION ON HARASSMENT AND MAY 19, 1987
OTHER DISCRIMINATION
- ASLB DECISION AUTHORIZED ISSUANCE OF FULL
POWER LICENSE PENDING COMMISSION APPROVAL
- NOTICE OF APPEAL BY INTERVENORS OF JUNE 1, 1987
THE ASLB DECISION CONCERNING HARASSMENT
AND OTHER DISCRIMINATION

° LICENSING

- CONSTRUCTION PERMIT DECEMBER 31, 1975
- ZERO POWER LICENSE OCTOBER 17, 1986
- FUEL LOADING NOVEMBER 3, 1986
- LOW POWER LICENSE MAY 21, 1987
- INITIAL CRITICALITY MAY 29, 1987

LICENSE STATUS

- ° EXEMPTIONS
 - CRITICALITY ALARM SYSTEM (10 CFR 70.24)
 - CONTAINMENT AIR LOCK TESTING (10 CFR 50 APPENDIX J)

- ° PLANT SPECIFIC LICENSE CONDITION
 - REGULATORY GUIDE 1.97

ORGANIZATION/STAFFING

- ORGANIZATION

- TOTAL STATION MANPOWER: 1341

- STAFFING

- SHIFT ROTATION: 8 HOUR SHIFTS, 6 CREWS
- SHIFT COMPOSITION:

	TECH. SPEC. REQUIRE. (BOTH UNITS OPERATING)	ACTUAL	
		DAY	NIGHT
SHIFT ENGINEER (SRO)	1	2	1
SHIFT FOREMAN (SRO)	1	4	2
SCRE (WITH DEGREE)	1	2	1
CONTROL OPERATOR (RO)	3	6	3
AUX. OPERATOR (NON-LICENSED)	3	18	9

- TOTAL LICENSED OPERATORS: 43 SROs, 20 ROs
- BRAIDWOOD OPERATING EXPERIENCE ENHANCED BY INDIVIDUALS WITH OPERATING EXPERIENCE AT BYRON

CONSTRUCTION HISTORY

- ° SIGNIFICANT CONSTRUCTION DEFICIENCIES

- 1982 - INSTALLATION AND INSPECTION OF MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT

- 1983 - MATERIAL TRACEABILITY, HVAC WELDING, SMALL BORE PIPING

- ° MAJOR INSPECTIONS

- CONSTRUCTION APPRAISAL TEAM (CAT)

- NONDESTRUCTIVE EXAMINATION (NDE) VAN

- INDEPENDENT DESIGN REVIEW

- ° BRAIDWOOD CONSTRUCTION ASSESSMENT PROGRAM (BCAP)

- ° ALLEGATIONS

PREOPERATIONAL/STARTUP TESTING

- ° TESTING CONDUCTED ON SCHEDULE
- ° DEDICATED STARTUP ORGANIZATION
 - TAKES PLANNING/SCHEDULING BURDEN OFF OPERATING AND TECHNICAL STAFF
 - UNIQUE TO BRAIDWOOD
 - CONSISTENT WITH LESSONS LEARNED APPROACH
 - 30 PERSON GROUP HEADED BY ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT WITH BRAIDWOOD SRO LICENSE
- ° PREOP TESTING CAT 1 IN SALP 6

SALP 6 RESULTS

<u>FUNCTIONAL AREA</u>	<u>RATING</u>
CONSTRUCTION	2
OPERATIONAL READINESS AND INITIAL FUEL LOADING	1
RADIOLOGICAL CONTROLS	2
PREOPERATIONAL TESTING	1
FIRE PROTECTION	2
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS	2
SECURITY	2
QUALITY PROGRAMS AND ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROLS AFFECTING QUALITY	1
LICENSING ACTIVITIES	2
TRAINING AND QUALIFICATION EFFECTIVENESS	2

OPERATIONAL READINESS ASSESSMENT

- ° FUEL LOADING AND INITIAL CRITICALITY HANDLED WELL
- ° TEAM INSPECTION CONFIRMED OPERATIONAL READINESS
- ° LERs - NO MAJOR EVENTS

CONCLUSION

THE STAFF CONCLUDES THAT THE LICENSEE SATISFIES ALL REQUIREMENTS FOR
ISSUANCE OF A FULL POWER LICENSE FOR BRAIDWOOD STATION, UNIT 1.

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ADVANCED COPY TO: The Public Document Room
DATE: 7/2/87
FROM: SECY Correspondence & Records Branch

Attached are copies of a Commission meeting transcript and related meeting document(s). They are being forwarded for entry on the Daily Accession List and placement in the Public Document Room. No other distribution is requested or required.

Meeting Title: Discussion/ Possible Vote on Fall
Power Operating License for Braidwood-1
Meeting Date: 6/30/87 Open X Closed

Item Description*:

Copies
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to PDR

DCS
Copy

1. TRANSCRIPT

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W/ Scheduling Notes; Diagrams

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* PDR is advanced one copy of each document, two of each SECY paper. C&R Branch files the original transcript, with attachments, without SECY papers.