

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS
United States Atomic Energy Commission
Washington 25, D. C.

October 12, 1959

Honorable John A. McCone
Chairman
U. S. Atomic Energy Commission
Washington 25, D. C.

Subject: COMMONWEALTH EDISON COMPANY - DRESDEN NUCLEAR POWER STATION

Dear Mr. McCone:

Supplementing previous actions, the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards reviewed Amendments Nos. 5 and 6, all previous amendments, and the application, Docket No. 50-10, at its twentieth meeting, October 8-9, 1959. In a review of the responsibilities and duties of the Edison Safeguards Review Board, as described in Amendments Nos. 5 and 6, the Committee concludes that the functions of this Board do not relate to the safeguards pertinent to the startup procedure and, therefore, suggests that the word "safeguards" be deleted from its title.

It is the opinion of the ACRS that a license cannot be written in so detailed a fashion and with such fore-knowledge of events as to avoid the need for a local decision as to whether or not an unpredicted occurrence changes the hazards of startup and subsequent operation. The Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards has found that a safeguards committee composed of technically competent persons is useful for increasing the safety of the operation of nuclear reactors. Some freedom of decision must be permitted the licensee. The ACRS, therefore, suggests that a safeguards committee composed of technically qualified individuals, including those at the working level, be established and given appropriate authority.

The Committee is of the opinion that the restrictions contained in the Technical Specifications submitted in the application, together with the restrictions outlined in its letter of May 18, 1959, will provide adequate protection of the public if in the startup and operation of this reactor technical competence is applied to the observations and data obtained. The Committee believes that with such technical competence it is unnecessary, from the viewpoint of safety, to impose prior approval by AEC at each step during the bringing of this reactor to its rated power.

Sincerely yours,

C. Rogers McCullough
Chairman

cc: A.R.Luedecke, GM
H.L.Price, DL&R

References

- 1) GEAP-1044 - Preliminary Hazards Summary Report for the Dresden Nuclear Power Station, September 3, 1957.
- 2) GEAP-0878 - Enclosure Section of the Hazards Summary Report for the Dresden Nuclear Power Station (Revised June 3, 1957).
- 3) GEAP-2071 - Operating Procedures and Emergency Plans for the Dresden Nuclear Power Station, June 5, 1958.
- 4) GEAP-3082 - Summary and Technical Specifications for the Dresden Nuclear Power Station, February 6, 1959.
- 5) Amendment No. 1 to Preliminary Hazards Summary Report for the Dresden Nuclear Power Station, May 26, 1958.
- 6) Amendment No. 2 to Preliminary Hazards Summary Report for the Dresden Nuclear Power Station, August 25, 1958.
- 7) Amendment No. 3 to Preliminary Hazards Summary Report for the Dresden Nuclear Power Station, December 29, 1958.
- 8) Amendment No. 4, Parts I and II, to Hazards Summary Report for the Dresden Nuclear Power Station, Revised August 12, 1959.
- 9) Amendment No. 5 to Hazards Summary Report for the Dresden Nuclear Power Station, May 15, 1959.
- 10) Amendment No. 6 to Hazards Summary Report for the Dresden Nuclear Power Station, June 17, 1959.
- 11) Report to ACRS by Division of Licensing and Regulation, October 18, 1957.
- 12) Report to ACRS by Division of Licensing and Regulation, October 3, 1958.
- 13) Report to ACRS by Division of Licensing and Regulation, January 2, 1959.
- 14) Report to ACRS by Division of Licensing and Regulation, February 19, 1959.
- 15) Report to ACRS by Division of Licensing and Regulation, on Amendments Nos. 5 and 6, October 1, 1959.