

50-373/374



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

November 17, 1999

Mr. Oliver D. Kingsley, President  
Nuclear Generation Group  
Commonwealth Edison Company  
Executive Towers West III  
1400 Opus Place, Suite 500  
Downers Grove, IL 60515

SUBJECT: GENERIC LETTER 96-06, "ASSURANCE OF EQUIPMENT OPERABILITY AND CONTAINMENT INTEGRITY DURING DESIGN-BASIS ACCIDENT CONDITIONS" - LASALLE COUNTY STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2 (TAC NOS. M96825 AND M96826)

Dear Mr. Kingsley:

By letters dated January 28, 1997, June 4, 1997, July 29, 1998, and July 9, 1999, Commonwealth Edison Company (ComEd) provided its response to Generic Letter (GL) 96-06, "Assurance of Equipment Operability and Containment Integrity During Design-Basis Accident Conditions" for LaSalle County Station, Units 1 and 2. The following evaluation addresses the issue of thermally-induced pressurization of piping runs penetrating the containment. The staff's evaluation of water hammer and two phase flow issues will be provided separately.

In its submittal of January 28, 1997, ComEd identified 11 penetrations in each Unit 1 and Unit 2, as potentially vulnerable to a water solid volume that may be subjected to an increase in pressure due to heating of trapped fluid. Both units were shut down at that time and the licensee stated that before the units would be placed into operation, design changes would be implemented to prevent thermally-induced pressurization. In its submittal of July 29, 1998, ComEd documented the implementation of modifications for nine of the penetrations on each unit. These modifications included: the addition of a bypass line and check valve on one penetration, drilling a vent hole in the inboard disk of the inboard containment isolation valve on one penetration, and the addition of relief valves on seven penetrations. The staff concludes that ComEd's corrective actions provide an acceptable resolution for these nine penetrations.

ComEd determined that the remaining two penetrations on each unit were operable on an interim basis until a permanent resolution could be implemented. In its submittal of July 9, 1999, ComEd stated that these two penetrations, M-49 and M-50, were qualified using ASME Section III, Appendix F, 1974 Edition. The licensee also stated that the associated hydraulic line piping, isolation valves, and pipe supports between the inboard isolation valve and the containment wall were qualified using the 1989 Edition of Appendix F. The licensee stated that LaSalle, Units 1 and 2, are committed to the 1974 Edition, and that a comparison of the 1989 and 1974 Editions resulted in determining that the 1989 Edition is more conservative. The licensee determined that the piping and components for these two penetrations in each unit would remain within the acceptable stress limits for the thermally-induced pressures from a postulated LOCA. The licensee requested that the NRC concur with the use of the Appendix F methodology for permanently qualifying these penetration components.

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PDR A D O C K

O. Kingsley  
Commonwealth Edison Company

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LaSalle County Station  
Units 1 and 2

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The staff has determined that the licensee's use of the 1974 and 1989 Editions of Appendix F, as described above, is reasonable and is acceptable for permanently qualifying penetrations M-49 and M-50 and the associated valves, piping and pipe supports for the postulated thermally-induced pressurization.

The staff concludes that ComEd's corrective actions and evaluation provide an acceptable resolution for the issue of thermally-induced pressurization of piping runs penetrating the containment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Donna M. Skay".

Donna M. Skay, Project Manager, Section 2  
Project Directorate III  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-373 and 50-374

cc: See next page

The staff has determined that the licensee's use of the 1974 and 1989 Editions of Appendix F, as described above, is reasonable and is acceptable for permanently qualifying penetrations M-49 and M-50 and the associated valves, piping and pipe supports for the postulated thermally-induced pressurization.

The staff concludes that ComEd's corrective actions and evaluation provide an acceptable resolution for the issue of thermally-induced pressurization of piping runs penetrating the containment.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

Donna M. Skay, Project Manager, Section 2  
Project Directorate III  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-373 and 50-374

cc: See next page

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The staff has determined that the licensee's use of the 1974 and 1989 Editions of Appendix F, as described above, is reasonable and is acceptable for permanently qualifying penetrations M-49 and M-50 and the associated valves, piping and pipe supports for the postulated thermally-induced pressurization.

The staff concludes that ComEd's corrective actions and evaluation provide an acceptable resolution for the issue of thermally-induced pressurization of piping runs penetrating the containment.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

Donna M. Skay, Project Manager, Section 2  
Project Directorate III  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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Units 1 and 2

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