

ED-457/455



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

December 10, 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 96-05, "PERIODIC VERIFICATION OF DESIGN-BASIS
CAPABILITY OF SAFETY-RELATED MOTOR-OPERATED VALVES" - BYRON
STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2 (TAC NOS. M97025 AND M97026)**

Dear Mr. Kingsley:

On September 18, 1996, the NRC issued Generic Letter (GL) 96-05, "Periodic Verification of Design-Basis Capability of Safety-Related Motor-Operated Valves," that requested each nuclear power plant licensee to establish a program, or ensure the effectiveness of its current program, to verify on a periodic basis that safety-related motor-operated valves (MOV) continue to be capable of performing their safety functions within the current licensing basis of the facility.

On November 13, 1996, Commonwealth Edison Company (ComEd) submitted a 60-day response to GL 96-05 notifying the NRC that, as requested in the GL, it would establish a program at Byron Station, Units 1 and 2 (Byron), to verify on a periodic basis that safety-related MOVs continue to be capable of performing their safety functions within the current licensing bases of the facility. On March 15, 1997, ComEd submitted a 180-day response to GL 96-05 providing a summary description of the MOV periodic verification program planned to be implemented at Byron. ComEd provided an updated GL 96-05 submittal on August 24, 1998, and on April 12, 1999, provided a response to an NRC staff's request of February 4, 1999, for additional information regarding the GL 96-05 program.

We have reviewed ComEd's submittals and applicable NRC inspection reports for the MOV program at Byron. We find that ComEd has established an acceptable program to periodically verify the design basis capability of the safety-related MOVs at Byron through its commitment to all three phases of the Joint Owners Group (JOG) Program on MOV Periodic Verification and the additional actions described in the submittals. As discussed in the enclosed safety evaluation (SE), we conclude that ComEd is adequately addressing the actions requested in GL 96-05. The NRC staff may conduct inspections at Byron to verify that the implementation of

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the MOV periodic verification program is in accordance with ComEd's commitments, the enclosed NRC SE, the NRC SE dated October 30, 1997, on the JOG Program on MOV Periodic Verification; and the NRC SE dated April 14, 1998, on the Westinghouse Owners Group methodology for ranking MOVs by their safety significance.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By

George F. Dick, Jr., Project Manager, Section 2
Project Directorate III
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. STN 50-454 and STN 50-455

Enclosure: Safety Evaluation

cc w/encl: See next page

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