



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION III
801 WARRENVILLE ROAD
LISLE, ILLINOIS 60532-4351

December 21, 1999

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

SUBJECT: BYRON INSPECTION REPORT 50-454/99019(DRP); 50-455/99019(DRP)

Dear Mr. Kingsley:

On December 6, 1999, the NRC completed an inspection at the Byron 1 and 2 reactor facilities. The enclosed report presents the results of that inspection.

During this inspection period, control room operations were consistently performed in a safe and controlled manner. This was evident during the Unit 2 startup following refueling outage B2R08 as well as during the general conduct of refueling outage work activities. Supervisors demonstrated effective command and control of plant operations and operators closely monitored control room panels, were knowledgeable of plant condition, and responded appropriately to alarms. We also noted that observed maintenance activities were generally conducted well. Maintenance personnel were knowledgeable of the tasks and professionally completed the work.

We are concerned with the use of procedures at Byron Station for the operation and testing of plant equipment and systems. There were two notable examples during this inspection period wherein station personnel failed to follow station procedures for the control of work activities. In the first example, a safety related pump was rendered inoperable because it was operated for several hours with its discharge path isolated. In the second example, a loss of electrical power to a 4160 volt non-safety related electrical bus occurred during testing because station personnel did not review existing procedural guidance and schematics prior to performing the testing and did not use the procedure during the testing. The inspectors also identified one example wherein station personnel were performing a Technical Specification surveillance test procedure using a superceded revision of the test procedure. You subsequently identified two additional examples where surveillance tests had been performed using superceded revisions of the test procedures during the refueling outage.

Based on the results of this inspection, the NRC has determined that three violations of NRC requirements occurred. These violations are being treated as Non-Cited Violations (NCVs), consistent with Section VII.B.1.a of the Enforcement Policy. These NCVs are described in the subject inspection report. If you contest the violation or severity level of these NCVs, you should provide a response within 30 days of the date of this inspection report, with the basis for

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O. Kingsley

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your denial, to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, ATTN: Document Control Desk, Washington DC 20555-0001, with copies to the Regional Administrator, Region III; and the Director, Office of Enforcement, United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001.

In accordance with 10 CFR Part 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter, its enclosure, and your response, if you choose to provide one, will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

We will gladly discuss any questions you have concerning this inspection.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Jordan, Chief
Reactor Projects Branch 3

Docket Nos. 50-454; 50-455
License Nos. NPF-37; NPF-66

Enclosure: Inspection Report 50-454/99019(DRP);
50-455/99019(DRP)

cc w/encl: D. Helwig, Senior Vice President, Nuclear Services
C. Crane, Senior Vice President, Nuclear Operations
H. Stanley, Vice President, Nuclear Operations
R. Krich, Vice President, Regulatory Services
DCD - Licensing
W. Levis, Site Vice President
R. Lopriore, Station Manager
K. Moser, Acting Regulatory Assurance Manager
M. Aguilar, Assistant Attorney General
State Liaison Officer
State Liaison Officer, State of Wisconsin
Chairman, Illinois Commerce Commission

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