

September 26, 2001

Mr. Oliver D. Kingsley, President  
Exelon Nuclear  
Exelon Generation Company, LLC  
1400 Opus Place, Suite 500  
Downers Grove, IL 60515

SUBJECT: ISOLATION OF A THERMAL BARRIER COOLER RETURN LINE - BYRON  
STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2 (TAC NOS. MB2907 AND MB2908)

Dear Mr. Kingsley:

During an inspection of Byron Station, Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), Region III inspectors identified an Unresolved Item related to the isolation of a thermal barrier cooler return line. The finding is documented in NRC Inspection Report 50-454/01-03(DRS); 50-455/01-03(DRS), dated March 8, 2001. Specifically, the inspectors questioned the change to the updated final safety analysis report (UFSAR), in which the performance requirement for one of the motor-operated valves in the component cooling water return line from the reactor coolant pump thermal barrier cooler was changed such that it did not have to be capable of closing against full reactor differential pressure that may result from a reactor coolant pump thermal barrier leak.

The inspectors reviewed an UFSAR change developed and implemented in 1998 at Byron to provide editorial clarification in UFSAR Section 9.2.2.4.4. The inspectors reviewed the UFSAR change package, the associated 10 CFR 50.59 evaluation (GG-98-0200) and other related documents. Based on the information included in the documents, the inspectors were not able to conclude that the UFSAR change did not represent an unreviewed safety question. Criterion 55 (10 CFR Part 50, Appendix A) specifies the requirements for isolation of reactor coolant pressure boundary penetrating containment. Criterion 44 specifies, in part, that isolation capabilities of cooling systems be provided to assure that the safety function be accomplished assuming a single failure.

In consideration of the above, please provide the basis upon which it was concluded that the changes to the isolation capability of the thermal barrier cooler return line and the associated UFSAR change could be done without submitting a license amendment to the NRC in

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accordance with 10 CFR 50.59 and 50.90. This request has been discussed with representatives of Exelon and it was agreed that the NRC would receive a response within 45 days of receipt of this letter.

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

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

cc: See next page

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Byron Station  
Units 1 and 2

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Byron Station  
Units 1 and 2

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**/RA/**

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

cc: See next page

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ADAMS ACCESSION NO.: **ML012610488** \*See previous concurrence

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