



Commonwealth Edison

One First National Plaza, Chicago, Illinois
Address Reply to: Post Office Box 767
Chicago, Illinois 60690

June 27, 1979

Mr. Harold R. Denton, Director
Director of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Subject: Byron Station Units 1 and 2
Braidwood Station Units 1 and 2
Change in Fuel Load Date
NRC Docket Nos. 50-454, 50-455,
50-456 and 50-457

Dear Mr. Denton:

On May 24, 1979, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) commissioners approved your plan (SECY-79-344 dated May 19, 1979) for an interim reorganization of the NRC Staff to deal with the impacts of the Three Mile Island (TMI) Incident. In this plan, Commonwealth Edison Company's Byron and Braidwood Stations, with estimated completion dates beyond January 1981, were included in a category of plants in which the operating license review will be suspended until January 1980.

In a meeting with utility representatives on June 13, 1979 you indicated that both the House Appropriations Committee and the Office of Management and Budget had expressed support to add 100 people to the NRC Staff on a temporary basis. Although you were not optimistic about obtaining 100 qualified people or providing adequate supervision to make their work effective, you thought that given additional manpower availability and additional monies for technical assistance some progress might be made on the operating license review of plants in the Byron and Braidwood category. You also stated that the implementation of "Lessons Learned" from TMI will more than likely delay the review of plants in the Byron and Braidwood category beyond that outlined in your May 19, 1979 plan. In view of the above considerations, the June 13 meeting did not alter Commonwealth Edison's opinion that the Byron and Braidwood review will not resume before January 1980.

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Therefore, the impact of suspending the licensing review of Byron and Braidwood until January 1980 has been analyzed and has resulted in the decision to delay the fuel load dates of all four units by one year. The table in Attachment I shows the original Commonwealth Edison licensing schedule for the Byron and Braidwood units, the original NRC schedule, and the revised Commonwealth Edison schedule reflecting the suspension of review. In February 1979, the NRC submitted a licensing review schedule for Byron and Braidwood that would support a fuel date six months later (October 1981) than the Commonwealth Edison desired date. The NRC schedule was based on the input from the NRC construction task force which projected the fuel load dates of Byron Unit 1 and Braidwood Unit 1 six months later than Commonwealth Edison's projected dates. Prior to the TMI accident, discussions were underway to resolve this difference. Thus, the statement in the NRC interim reorganization plan (SECY-79-344) that Byron and Braidwood would be delayed only six months reflects the NRC's estimated construction completion and not the one year delay based on Commonwealth Edison's construction completion date.

The revised Commonwealth Edison licensing schedule assumes a Safety Evaluation Report (SER) from the NRC 17 months after the review restarts in January 1980. The original review time from the start of round one questions to SER was estimated at 15 months. Two additional months have been added to the revised schedule to account for responding to TMI concerns. The remaining time intervals are unchanged resulting in the following changes in the fuel load dates:

<u>Station</u>	<u>Original Fuel Load Dates</u>	<u>Revised Fuel Load Dates</u>
Byron Unit 1	April 1981	April 1982
Byron Unit 2	April 1982	April 1983
Braidwood Unit 1	April 1983	April 1982
Braidwood Unit 2	April 1982	April 1983

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Please address any questions that you might have to
this office.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "C. Reed". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Cordell Reed
Assistant Vice-President

attachment

ATTACHMENT I

BYRON AND BRAIDWOOD STATIONS OPERATING LICENSE REVIEW SCHEDULE

<u>Byron and Braidwood</u>	<u>NRC's Original Schedule</u>	<u>Commonwealth Edison's Original Schedule</u>	<u>Commonwealth Edison's Revised Schedule</u>
Start Round One Questions	May 1979	March 1979	January 1980
Safety Evaluation Report	December 1980	June 1980	June 1981
ACRS Letter	January 1981	July 1980	July 1981
Begin Hearings	July 1981	October 1980	October 1981
Complete Hearings	September 1981	December 1980	December 1981
Fuel Load	October 1981	April 1981	April 1982