

**Commonwealth Edison**

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Address Reply to: Post Office Box 767
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June 10, 1982

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

Subject: LaSalle County Station Units 1 and 2
Forty-Year Operating License
NRC Docket Nos. 50-373 and 50-374

- References (a): L. DelGeorge letter to H. R. Denton
dated September 23, 1981.
- (b): C. Schroeder letter to A. Schwencer
dated April 8, 1982.
- (c): NRC License NPF-11 dated April 17,
1982.

Dear Mr. Denton:

In Reference (a), Commonwealth Edison Company requested that the licenses for LaSalle County Station Units 1 and 2 be issued for 40 years, effective at date of issue. In Reference (b), additional information was provided to record the basis for the 40 year operating license. During conversations with NRC personnel on June 9 and 10, 1982, it was requested that Commonwealth Edison provide additional information on this topic. The purpose of this letter is to provide the requested information.

Commonwealth Edison Company, has performed an environmental assessment of the effects of 40 years of operation from date of license issuance versus date of construction permit issuance. This was accomplished by reviewing the impacts identified in the Operating License-Final Environmental Statement. It was determined that there will be no significant adverse impacts attributable to extending the operating license to allow 40 years of unit operation. During this review, it was determined that the population estimates utilized were to the year 2020. A review of population estimates made by the Illinois Bureau of the Budget provided the following data:

	<u>Year</u>	<u>Estimate from Mid-1970's</u>	<u>1981 Estimate</u>
LaSalle County	2020	136,293	122,804
	2025	148,104	127,263
LaSalle County	2020	580,946	528,266
and 9 contiguous counties	2025	636,095	548,354

Boo!

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Thus, the current (1981) population projections for the end of life reactor operation are lower than those estimates made during the mid-1970's, during which time the LSCS-OL-ER population projections were prepared. The review of environmental impacts also revealed positive impacts which could be reaped from a full 40 years of unit operation and which are summarized in subsequent paragraphs.

Upon our request, General Electric Company has confirmed that 40 year operation is not a limiting consideration for:

1. Safety analysis (transients or accidents)
2. Design of NSSS equipment, vessel, core, or reactivity control equipment, and in vessel equipment.
3. Design of ECCS (ie specifications for accessible equipment).

Based upon the information provided in Reference (a), Reference (b), our review of environmental impacts and input from Sargent & Lundy and General Electric Company, Commonwealth Edison Company concludes that there are no unreviewed safety or environmental issues in providing a 40 year operating license for LaSalle County Station. In addition, our environmental review has revealed positive impacts, which include:

1. Additional years of property tax benefits.
2. Additional years of secondary benefits to the local economy from employee payroll and expenditures for goods and services to operate plant.
3. Lower cost of electricity to customers served by CECo by spreading capital costs over the additional units of energy produced in the extended operating life.
4. Deferred capital costs and environmental impacts associated with constructing 2156 MWe of additional generating capacity to replace the power that would have been lost if units 1 and 2 are prematurely retired.

Therefore, we reaffirm our request that the Unit 1 license be issued for a 40 year term expiring at midnight on April 17, 2022.

Based on various discussions between NRR and CECo personnel, it is our understanding that, if the NRC does not issue a license for 40 year operating license, the license will contain a statement to the effect that the issuance of a license expiring September 10, 2013 is without prejudice to ongoing consideration by the Commission, pending satisfactory NRC Staff review, of the licensee's request for a license expiring at midnight, April 17, 2022.

H. R. Denton

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If there are any further questions on this matter, please contact this office.

One (1) copy of this letter is being transmitted by telecopy for your immediate consideration. In addition, one (1) signed original and thirty-nine (39) copies of this letter are being provided for your use.

Very truly yours,



Wayne L. Stiede
Assistant Vice-President

CWS/lm

cc: NRC Resident Inspector - LSCS
P. Steptoe; IL&B

4316N