



Commonwealth Edison
1400 Opus Place
Downers Grove, Illinois 60515

September 23, 1993

Dr. Thomas E. Murley, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Attn: Document Control Desk

Subject: Reassignment of the Operating Experience Program Responsibilities from
Corporate Nuclear Oversight to Station Regulatory Assurance

Byron Station Units 1 and 2
NPF-37/66; NRC Docket Nos. 50-454/455

Braidwood Station Units 1 and 2
NPF-72/77; NRC Docket Nos. 50-456/457

LaSalle County Station Units 1 and 2
NPF-11/18; NRC Docket Nos. 50-373/374

References: (a) K. A. Ainger letter to the NRC dated March 10, 1988
(b) L. N. Olshan letter to H. E. Bliss dated July 1, 1988
(c) C. M. Allen letter to the NRC dated July 12, 1988
(d) P. C. Shemanski letter to H. E. Bliss dated January 31, 1989
(e) R. A. Chrzanowski letter to T. E. Murley dated August 14, 1989
(f) S. P. Sands letter to T. J. Kovach dated June 27, 1990

Dear Dr. Murley:

The purpose of this letter is to notify the Staff that Commonwealth Edison Company (CECo) is modifying a commitment made in a previous license amendment for Byron, Braidwood and LaSalle County Stations. The commitment modification involves transfer of the Operating Experience (OPEX) Program responsibilities from the Corporate Nuclear Oversight Organization to the Station Regulatory Assurance Groups.

As documented in references (a), (c), and (e), CECo previously submitted license amendment requests to reduce the number of Onsite Nuclear Safety Group (ONSG) members (now known as the Independent Safety Engineering Group (ISEG)) from four to three engineers. These amendment requests were subsequently approved by the Staff as documented in references (b), (d), and (f).

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The justification that CECo gave for this change focused on the fact that the ONSG function would be supplemented by a Corporate support group (then known as the Licensing and Plant Support Services Group (LPSSG)) and the Onsite Quality Assurance Group. The proposed amendments discussed the various functions of the LPSSG. One specific example given was the implementation of the Operating Experience Program. CECo will be transferring this responsibility from Corporate Nuclear Oversight to the Station Regulatory Assurance Groups.

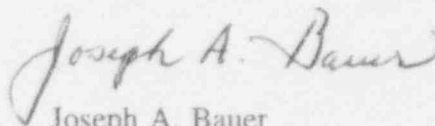
Transfer of the Operating Experience Program responsibilities to each Station's Regulatory Assurance Group will ensure a more timely review of OPEX issues. In addition, the screening of OPEX items for plant specific applicability will be enhanced by direct Station involvement. The transfer of this responsibility from a Corporate support group to the Station Regulatory Assurance Group does not increase the ISEG work load nor impact the group's ability to perform its function.

Section 6.0 of Technical Specifications for Byron, Braidwood and LaSalle also specifies that the training program for the unit staff shall include familiarization with relevant industry operational experience. Implementation of the OPEX program by the Station Regulatory Assurance Groups will continue to fully satisfy this requirement.

In conclusion, the transfer of OPEX responsibilities from Corporate Nuclear Oversight to the Station Regulatory Assurance Groups will enhance the effectiveness of the program, and in no way compromises the basis on which the NRC originally accepted a reduction of the Onsite Nuclear Safety Group from four to three engineers.

Please address any further comments or questions regarding this matter to this office.

Respectfully,



Joseph A. Bauer
Nuclear Licensing Administrator

JAB/gp

cc: J. B. Hickman, Byron Project Manager - NRR
R. R. Assa, Braidwood Project Manager - NRR
J. L. Kennedy, LaSalle Project Manager - NRR
H. Peterson, Senior Resident Inspector - Byron
S. G. Dupont, Senior Resident Inspector - Braidwood
D. Hills, Senior Resident Inspector - LaSalle
B. Clayton, Branch Chief - Region III