



Commonwealth Edison
1400 Opus Place
Downers Grove, Illinois 60515

April 29, 1991

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attn: Document Control Desk
Washington, D.C. 20555

SUBJECT: LaSalle County Station Unit 1 Cycle 5
Reload and Core Operating Limits Report
NRC Docket No. 50-373

- REFERENCES: (a) M.H. Richter (CECo) letter to T.E. Murley (USNRC) dated January 7, 1991; "LaSalle County Nuclear Power Station Unit 1 Fuel Channel Evaluation for LaSalle Unit 1 Cycle 5, NRC Docket No. 50-373."
- (b) J.B. Hickman (USNRC) letter to T.J. Kovach (CECo) dated February 28, 1991; "Safety Evaluation for LaSalle Unit 1 - Fuel Channel Evaluation for Cycle 5 (TAC No. 79439)."

Gentlemen:

LaSalle Unit 1, which has recently completed its fourth cycle of operation, is currently preparing for Cycle 5 startup (estimated startup date is May 2, 1991). The purpose of this letter is to advise you of Commonwealth Edison's review of the Cycle 5 reload under the provisions of 10 CFR 50.59, and to transmit the Core Operating Limits Report (COLR) for the upcoming cycle consistent with Generic Letter 88-16.

The LaSalle Unit 1 core, which consists of NRC approved fuel designs, was designed to operate within approved fuel design criteria, Technical Specifications and related bases such that:

- core operating characteristics will be equivalent to or less limiting than those previously reviewed and accepted; or
- reanalysis has been performed to demonstrate that the limiting postulated FSAR events which could be affected by the reload are within allowable limits.

Consistent with past reloads, the reload licensing analyses performed for Cycle 5 utilized NRC approved methodologies. The cycle-specific power distribution limits for Cycle 5 are presented in the attached COLR.

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The LaSalle Unit 1 Cycle 5 core will contain 220 reused channels. Each of these channels have previously been used on a different fuel assembly for a single cycle. GE has performed a cycle specific analysis that accounts for channel bow effects by conservatively adjusting R-factors as a function of channel bow for those bundles containing the reused channels (Reference (a)). The NRC approved this approach in the Reference (b) letter. Therefore, based on the approved cycle specific channel bow analysis, the reused channels in LaSalle Unit 1 Cycle 5 do not present a challenge to either the MCPR Safety Limit or the LHGR design limit and do not represent an unreviewed safety question.

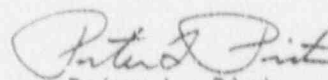
Commonwealth Edison has performed a detailed review of the relevant reload licensing documents, the associated bases, and references. Based on that review, a safety evaluation was prepared as required by 10 CFR 50.59 and approved by CECO's On-Site and Off-Site Review functions. CECO has concluded that the reload presents no unreviewed safety questions, and that no revisions to the current Technical Specifications are required as a result of the reload.

Finally, further verification of the reload core design will be performed during startup testing. The startup tests will be consistent with Technical Specifications and testing recommended in Draft Regulatory Guide Task SC 521-4. As in the past, a summary of the results of key startup tests will be submitted within 90 days following the resumption of commercial operation.

Based on the previous discussion, CECO has concluded that NRC review and approval of the reload analyses is not required for resumption of operation with the Cycle 5 core.

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

Very truly yours,



Peter L. Piet
Nuclear Licensing Administrator

Attachment - Core Operating Limits Report for LaSalle County Unit 1 Cycle 5

cc: A. B. Davis - Regional Administrator, RIII
B. Siegel - NRR, Project Manager