



Commonwealth Edison

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

May 11, 1983

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

Subject: Byron Station Units 1 and 2
Auxiliary Building Ventilation
NRC Docket Nos. 50-454 and 50-455

Dear Mr. Denton:

This letter will clarify our commitments with regard to the timing for completion of the preoperational testing of the Byron auxiliary building ventilation system. Our review of the Byron "Safety Evaluation Report", NUREG-0876, indicates that a misunderstanding may exist regarding this point.

The Byron auxiliary building ventilation system provides ventilation for the Fuel Handling Building. Operation of this system is not necessary in the period prior to initial fuel load when new fuel assemblies are being received and stored in the Fuel Handling Building. There is no need for special air temperature control, containment, confinement, or exhaust gas filtration during this period because there is no decay heat load and no fission product inventory. Since a new fuel assembly contains relatively minor amounts of radioactivity, the operation of the auxiliary building ventilation system would not alter the consequences of accidental damage to a new fuel assembly.

Section 9.1.1 of the Byron SER documents the NRC's determination that appropriate ventilation will be provided for new fuel storage during normal plant operations when the auxiliary building ventilation system is operational. It does not explicitly address the adequacy of ventilation prior to the time when the auxiliary building ventilation system is operational. As described above no special ventilation is needed during this period. Completion of preoperational testing of the auxiliary building ventilation system has therefore been scheduled to be complete to support the fuel loading for Unit 1.

Pending further communications, we will proceed to receive and store new fuel prior to completion of the auxiliary building ventilation system. Please contact this office if there are questions regarding this matter.

Boo!

8305160059 830511
PDR ADOCK 05000454
E PDR

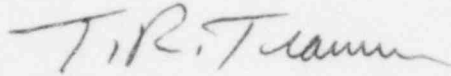
H. R. Denton

- 2 -

May 11, 1983

One signed original and fifteen copies of this letter are provided for your use.

Very truly yours,



T. R. Tramm
Nuclear Licensing Administrator

lm

cc: J. G. Keppler - Region III

6554N