



**Commonwealth Edison**

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Address Reply to: Post Office Box 767  
Chicago, Illinois 60690

July 18, 1983

Mr. James G. Keppler, Regional Administrator  
- Region III  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
799 Roosevelt Road  
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

Subject: Byron Generating Station Units 1 and 2  
Braidwood Generating Station Units 1 and 2  
Spring Hanger Welding Deficiency  
NRC Docket Nos. 50-454, 50-455, 50-456,  
and 50-457

Dear Mr. Keppler:

This letter fulfills the thirty-day reporting requirements of 10 CFR 50.55(e) for a Byron/Braidwood pipe hanger deficiency which was reported on June 17, 1983 to Mr. Julian Hinds. For your tracking purposes, this deficiency has been assigned number 83-08 for Byron and 83-06 for Braidwood. This is an interim report. The final report will be provided within 90 days.

DESCRIPTION OF DEFICENCY

Certain spring hangers were supplied by Elcen Metal Products with welded high carbon steel nuts having carbon content in excess of the applicable ASME Section III limit. These hangers have a high carbon steel nut welded to a low carbon steel turnbuckle. There are a number of potentially deficient hangers at each site.

ANALYSIS OF SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

Excessive carbon content could result in embrittlement and premature failure of the nut weld. Failure of this weld would unload the hanger and would result in increased primary stresses on safety-related piping. The specific safety implications of such increased stress levels could only be determined with case-by-case piping analysis.

CORRECTIVE ACTION

It has been determined that fourteen hangers at each site have this deficiency. At Braidwood these fourteen spring hangers have been placed in a "hold area" and are not installed. At Byron these hangers will be removed and replaced by December 1, 1983. Approximately 40 hangers at each site are still being evaluated. The result of this evaluation will be documented in a later report.

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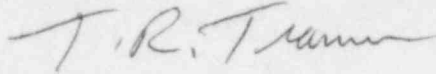
J. G. Keppler

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Please address questions regarding this matter to this office.

Very truly yours,



T. R. Tramm  
Nuclear Licensing Administrator

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cc: Director of Inspection and Enforcement

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