



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

DMB

December 2, 1983

Mr. James G. Keppler
Regional Administrator
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
Pacific Scientific Snubber Capstan Springs
NRC Docket Nos. 50-454, 50-455, 50-456,
and 50-457

Dear Mr. Keppler

On October 28, 1983 Commonwealth Edison notified Mr. R. C. Knop of a deficiency reportable pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55(e) regarding capstan springs in Pacific Scientific snubbers being installed at Byron and Braidwood stations. This letter fulfills the thirty day reporting requirement of the regulation. For your tracking purposes this deficiency has been assigned number 83-13 for Byron and 83-15 for Braidwood.

Description of Deficiency

We have been informed by ITT-Grinnell that Pacific Scientific Corporation has identified a potential problem with capstan springs in some of their mechanical snubbers. Certain model PSA-1 and PSA-3 snubbers were supplied with capstan springs of a type that experienced premature failure in dynamic testing. Preliminary analyses indicates that the failures are associated with metallurgical defects introduced during manufacture of the springs. The springs could fail during a seismic event.

Analysis of Safety Implications

Failure of the capstan spring could release fragments which might cause snubber binding or lockup. Failure of this spring could also prevent snubber lockup. Either failure mode could result in increased piping movements and loads during a seismic event. The safety implications of such a snubber failure can only be established with detailed piping analysis, consideration of the ultimate pipe strength, and evaluation of the effectiveness of the available redundancy and diversity in plant safety equipment.

8312120282 831202
PDR ADOCK 05000454
S PDR

DEC - 6 1983

IE22 1/0

J. G. Keppler

- 2 -

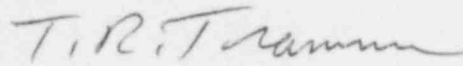
December 2, 1983

Corrective Action

Potentially defective snubbers will be replaced or inspected and repaired as necessary to support our fuel load schedules.

Please address further questions regarding this matter to this office.

Very truly yours,



T. R. Tramm
Nuclear Licensing Administrator

lm

cc: Director of Inspection and Enforcement
NRC Resident Inspector - Byron
NRC Resident Inspector - Braidwood

7701N