



Commonwealth Edison  
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November 5, 1973



Mr. D. L. Ziemann, Chief  
Operating Reactors - Branch 2  
Directorate of Licensing  
Office of Regulation  
U.S. Atomic Energy Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20545

Subject: Dresden Station Unit 3, Potential Hairline  
Cracks in Fuel Assembly Lower Tie Plates,  
AEC Dkt No. 50-249

Reference: (1) General Electric Report on Evaluation of  
Center Line Shrinkage Cracks in Bosses of  
Fuel Bundle Lower Tie Plates, Submitted in  
General Electric's letter to D. F. Knuth  
from J. D. Hinds dated August 29, 1973.

Dear Mr. Ziemann:

In August, 1973, we were informed by General Electric Company that they had identified a potential casting defect associated with a specific manufacturing lot of approximately 1700 fuel assembly nose piece castings. This letter presents, for your information, our evaluation and conclusions with regard to the problem as it applies to the operation of Dresden 3.

The defect consists of hairline cracks in the bosses of the lower tie plate portion of the casting, and is detailed in Reference (1). At the time we were notified, all nose pieces in the suspect lot had not been located, and, due to the time of manufacture, the potential existed that as many as 52 assemblies in Dresden 3 might have the potentially defective nose pieces. General Electric Company performed an evaluation of the effects of the cracks on the lower tie plate castings on plant operation. It was determined that the cracks are minor, and as they currently exist, are not expected to propagate. However, even if they do propagate during plant operation, they will not affect performance or the safe operation of the plant. Consequently, it is not necessary to rework any irradiated lower tie plates. The Station Review Board reviewed the above information and concurred with the conclusions at that time.

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Commonwealth Edison Company

Mr. D. L. Ziemann

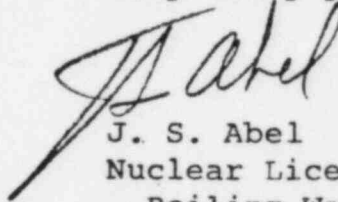
- 2 -

November 5, 1973

In early October, 1973, General Electric Company informed us that all potentially defective nose piece castings had been located, with the exception of 27. These 27 assemblies are believed to be among the 52 new assemblies which were installed in Dresden 3 during the spring, 1973 refueling outage.

The initial evaluation was refined in Reference (1) and the conclusion that the potential cracks will not affect performance or the safe operation of the plant was confirmed. On the basis of this evaluation, the 27 fuel assemblies believed to be in Dresden Unit 3 will remain and be considered as normal assemblies requiring no further attention.

Very truly yours,



J. S. Abel

Nuclear Licensing Administrator -  
Boiling Water Reactors

cc Mr. James G. Keppler  
Regional Director  
Region III