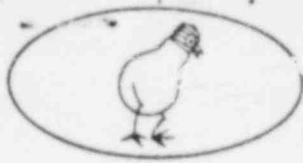


50-249



# Commonwealth Edison Company

ONE FIRST NATIONAL PLAZA ★ CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Address Reply to:

POST OFFICE BOX 767 ★ CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60690

April 28, 1971



Mr. Harold Price  
Director of Regulation  
U.S. Atomic Energy Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20545

Dear Mr. Price:

On March 25, 1971, I informed Dr. Morris by telephone of a problem with the Dresden 3 fuel which had been called to our attention the day before. The purpose of this letter is to advise you further on the status of that problem.

General Electric, while conducting a quality control audit of its Wilmington, North Carolina fuel fabrication facility, determined that the possibility existed that certain low and medium enrichment fuel rods could contain a pellet of higher enrichment than the remainder of the pellets in the rod. Further investigation by General Electric indicated that a small percentage (5 in 10,000) of the fuel rods contain a pellet of higher enrichment than that intended for a given rod. General Electric upgraded its fuel fabrication quality control such that this problem does not exist in fuel manufactured subsequent to January 1, 1971.

Commonwealth Edison has ordered General Electric to retest all fuel manufactured for Commonwealth plants prior to January 1, 1971 to positively insure that no fuel destined for Commonwealth reactors contains rods with pellets of improper enrichment. The Dresden 2 refueling is completed. No suspect fuel was used. The unit should be returned to service early in May. The program will be completed for Dresden 3 by the middle of May with the start of hot functional testing early in June. The program will be completed for Quad-Cities by the middle of June at which time Unit 1 will be ready to start fuel loading. Elimination of rods with improper pellets completely eliminates this fuel problem from the Commonwealth reactors.

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Commonwealth Edison Company

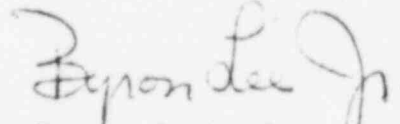
Mr. Harold Price

- 2 -

April 28, 1971

We intend to submit a formal report to the Commission on the Dresden 3 program as soon as all information is available. If you or your staff have any additional questions on this matter, we will be glad to furnish more detailed information or to make ourselves available for discussions with you.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Byron Lee, Jr.", written in dark ink.

Byron Lee, Jr.  
Assistant to the President

R. F. Fraley  
Executive Secretary  
ACRS  
1034 H Street

RE: FUEL ELEMENT QUALITY CONTROL PROBLEMS  
COMMONWEALTH EDISON COMPANY (DRESDEN 3 AND  
QUAD CITIES 1)  
BOSTON EDISON COMPANY (PILGRIM 1)  
VERMONT YANKEE NUCLEAR POWER CORPORATION  
(VERMONT YANKEE)

Forwarded for information are three copies of a  
report to the Director of Regulation as listed  
below:

Enclosure:  
Fuel Element Quality  
Control Problems  
dtd. 4/16/71

Lawrence D. Low  
Director  
Division of Compliance

bcc: DR Reading File

4/20/71

50-249; 254; 293; 271; Incident

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OFFICE ▶	CO	CO	CO			
SURNAME ▶	JGKepler:ee	RHEngelken	LDLow			
DATE ▶	4/20/71	4/21/71	4/24			

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