

March 19, 1996

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555



Attn: Document Control Desk

Subject: Additional Information Regarding Commonwealth Edison Company's
Implementation of 3.0 Volt Interim Plugging Criteria Probe Wear Criteria

Byron Nuclear Power Station, Unit 1
Braidwood Nuclear Power Station, Unit 1
NRC Docket Nos. 50-454 and 50-456

- References:
1. September 15, 1995, Letter from H.D. Pontious (ComEd) to the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation Regarding 3.0 Volt Interim Plugging Criteria Probe Wear Implementation at Byron Unit 1 and Braidwood Unit 1.
 2. November 9, 1995, Letter from M.D. Lynch (NRR) to D.L. Farrar (ComEd) Issuing Amendment No. 77 to Facility Operating Licenses NPF-37 and NPF-72 for use of 3.0 Volt Interim Plugging Criteria for Steam Generator Tubes
 3. January 23, 1996, Letter from A. Marion (NEI) to B. Sheron (NRR) Regarding Eddy Current Probe Replacement Criteria for Use in ODSCC Alternate Repair Criteria.
 4. February 9, 1996, Letter from B. Sheron (NRR) to A. Marion (NEI) Regarding Eddy Current Probe Replacement Criteria for use in ODSCC Alternate Repair Criteria.
 5. February 23, 1996, Letter from A. Marion (NEI) to B. Sheron (NRR) Regarding Eddy Current Probe Replacement Criteria for Use in ODSCC Alternate Repair Criteria.

In Reference 1, the Commonwealth Edison Company (ComEd) requested use of a bobbin coil probe wear criteria that differed from the guidance of Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Generic Letter 95-05, "Voltage-Based Repair Criteria for Westinghouse Steam Generators Affected by Outside Diameter Stress Corrosion Cracking." The probe wear criteria is used in the implementation of the 3.0 volt Interim, Plugging Criteria (IPC). In the NRC Safety Evaluation of the 3.0 volt IPC (Reference 2),

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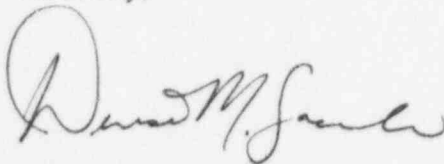
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the Staff found the proposed alternate probe wear criteria was acceptable for the Braidwood Unit 1 Fall 1995 and the Byron Unit 1 Fall 1995 steam generator inspections only. The Staff concluded that "...for future outages the licensee should either: a) provide alternative probe wear methodology which provides detection and sizing capability equivalent to the probe wear criteria in GL 95-05; or b) follow the GL 95-05 guidance with respect to probe wear."

In a letter dated January 23, 1996 (Reference 3), the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) provided to the Staff justification for an alternate probe wear criteria. The Staff accepted, with provisions, the proposed NEI probe wear criteria by letter dated February 9, 1996 (Reference 4). Reference 5 agreed to implement the alternate probe wear criteria with the Staff's provisions. Byron and Braidwood will implement the probe wear criteria as described in References 3, 4 and 5.

If you have any questions concerning this correspondence, please contact this office.

Sincerely,



Denise M. Saccomando
Senior Nuclear Licensing Administrator

cc: D. Lynch, Senior Project Manager - NRR
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