



April 5, 1996

**United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission**  
**Attention: Document Control Desk**  
**Washington, D.C. 20555**

**Subject:** LaSalle County Nuclear Power Station Unit 1  
Unit 1 Cycle 8 Reload and Core Operating Limits Report  
NRC Docket No. 50-373

**References:** 1. Generic Letter 88-16, dated October 3, 1988,  
Removal of Cycle-Specific Parameter Limits  
From Technical Specifications

LaSalle County Unit 1 has recently completed its seventh cycle of operation and is currently preparing for Cycle 8 startup (estimated startup date is April 7, 1996). The purpose of this letter is to advise you of Commonwealth Edison's review of the Cycle 8 reload under the provisions of 10CFR50.59 and to transmit the Core Operating Limits Report (COLR) for the upcoming cycle (attached) consistent with Generic Letter 88-16.

The LaSalle County Unit 1 core, which consists of NRC-approved fuel designs, was designed to operate within approved fuel design criteria, Technical Specifications and related bases such that:

- 1) Core operating characteristics will be equivalent to or less limiting than those previously reviewed and accepted; or
- 2) Reanalysis has been performed to demonstrate that the limiting postulated FSAR events which could be affected by the reload are within allowable limits.

Consistent with past reloads, the reload licensing analyses performed for Cycle 8 utilized NRC-approved methodologies. The fresh fuel to be loaded in Cycle 8 consists of 104 bundles of fuel type GE9B-P8CWB343-12GZ-80M-150-CECO with a bundle average enrichment of 3.43 % U-235, 12 Gd Rods and 80 mil channels and 144 bundles of fuel type GE9B-P8CWB342-10GZ-80M-150-CECO with a bundle average enrichment of 3.42 % U-235, 10 Gd Rods and 80 mil channels. The cycle-specific power distribution limits for Cycle 8 are presented in the attached COLR.

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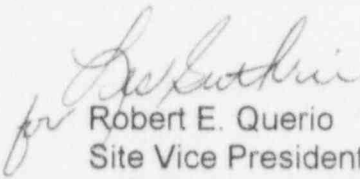
Commonwealth Edison has performed a detailed review of the relevant reload licensing documents, the associated bases, and references. Based on that review, a safety evaluation was prepared, as required by 10CFR50.59, which concluded that the reload presents no unreviewed safety questions and requires no Technical Specification changes. In addition, a 10CFR50.59 review was also performed to show that the change from 100 mil to 80 mil channels presents no unreviewed safety questions and requires no Technical Specification changes. The Station On-Site reviews of these 10CFR50.59 evaluations have been completed, and the Off-Site Reviews are in progress.

Finally, further verification of the reload core design will be performed during startup testing. The startup tests will be consistent with Technical Specifications and testing recommended in Draft Regulatory Guide Task SC 521-4. As in the past, a summary of the results of key startup tests will be submitted within 90 days following the resumption of commercial operation.

Based on the preceding discussion, Commonwealth Edison has concluded that NRC review and approval of the reload analyses is not required for resumption of operation with the Cycle 8 core.

If there are any questions or comments concerning this letter, please refer them to me at (815) 357-6761, extension 3600.

Respectfully,

  
for Robert E. Querio  
Site Vice President  
LaSalle County Station

Enclosure

cc: H. J. Miller, NRC Region III Administrator  
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