



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

June 7, 1985

Mr. James G. Keppler  
Regional Administrator  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Region III  
799 Roosevelt Road  
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

Subject: Byron Nuclear Power Station Units 1 and 2  
Braidwood Nuclear Power Station Units 1 and 2  
Licensed Operator Examination Schedule  
NRC Docket Nos. 50-454/455 and 50-456/457

Reference: March 13, 1985 letter from G. L. Alexander  
to Don Beckham transmitting CECO's response  
to Generic Letter 85-04.

Dear Mr. Keppler:

The scheduling of licensed operator exams for Commonwealth Edison Company's Byron and Braidwood Nuclear Power Stations was discussed in a meeting held on May 16, 1985 at your offices. The purpose of this letter is to confirm both the current schedule for these exams and our understanding of the requirements of 10 CFR 55.25.

Mr. J. I. McMillen, of your office, provided the information listed in the attached table on June 5, 1985. These dates are acceptable to Commonwealth Edison and are currently being used for planning purposes. Please confirm these dates as soon as the status of the required contractor assistance is known.

Commonwealth Edison has requested in the referenced letter that a cold license examination be held for Braidwood Station during the week of April 21, 1986. Mr. J. I. McMillen indicated that it has been past practice to consider a station's fuel load date as the cut-off for the administration of cold examinations. This would preclude the April 21 exam, since Braidwood's target fuel load date is March 31, 1986. However, 10 CFR 55.25 states in part:

The Commission may administer a simulated operating test to an applicant for a license to operate a reactor prior to its initial criticality....

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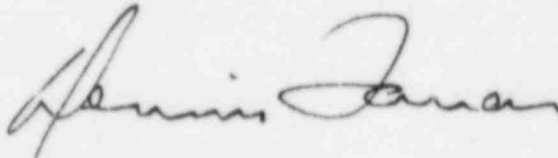
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Thus, the CFR appears to allow cold license examinations up to the date of initial criticality. This difference is crucial in this instance, since the target date for Braidwood Unit 1 initial criticality is May 31, 1986, which would not preclude the administration of a cold license examination during the week of April 21, 1986. Commonwealth Edison Company requests that the interpretation of 10 CFR 55.25 be clarified as soon as possible to facilitate the potential redistribution of license candidates.

Commonwealth Edison also recognizes its responsibility under 10 CFR 55.25a to demonstrate the immediate need for all cold license applicants and intends to do so upon submittal of the applications. Please direct any correspondence or questions you may have regarding these four examinations to this office.

Very truly yours,



Dennis L. Farrar  
Director of Nuclear Licensing

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cc: NRC Resident Inspector - Byron  
NRC Resident Inspector - Braidwood  
G. N. Wright - State of Ill.

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ATTACHMENT

LICENSED OPERATOR EXAM SCHEDULE FOR  
BYRON AND BRAIDWOOD

<u>STATION</u>	<u>NUMBER OF CANDIDATES</u>	<u>DATES (WEEK OF)</u>	<u>EXAM SEGMENT</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
Byron	20	9/16/85	Written + 8 oral/sim.	Firm
		10/14/85	12 oral/sim.	Tentative. Contractor help is needed.
Braidwood	27	10/28/85	Written + 12 oral/sim.	Firm
		11/04/85	15 oral/sim.	Tentative. Contractor help is needed.
Braidwood	27	2/03/86	Written + 12 oral/sim.	Written - Firm. oral/sim - tentative
		2/10/86	15 oral/sim.	Tentative. Contractor help is needed.
Braidwood	28	4/21/86	Written + oral/sim.	Tentative. See letter