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Byron Generating Station
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October 18, 1996

LTR: BYRON 96-0266
FILE: 1.10.0101

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

Attn: Document Control Desk

Subject: Byron Station Unit 1
NRC Docket Number: 50-454

Operating Interval Between Eddy Current Inspections for Circumferential
Indications in the Byron Unit 1 Steam Generators

Reference: D. Wozniak letter to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission dated
September 9, 1996, transmitting the Byron Station Unit 1 Steam Generator
Interim Plugging Criteria 90 Day Report for the End-of Cycle 7 Inspection

In Reference Letter, the Commonwealth Edison Company (ComEd) provided justification to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for the operation of the Byron Station Unit 1 during Cycle 8 for 448.5 days above a T-Hot 500° F. ComEd plans to replace the Byron Unit 1 steam generators in the first quarter of 1998. Therefore, this is the last cycle of operation for the Westinghouse D-4 steam generators. The period of operation to shutdown for the replacement outage represents a 600 day operating cycle. As previously discussed with the Staff, ComEd has been working diligently on an evaluation which ensures steam generator tube integrity will be met in the unlikely event of a main steam line break at the end of a 600 day operating period. This evaluation is provided in Attachment A. The results of the evaluation determined that Byron Unit 1 can operate 600 days and meet the criteria in Generic Letter 95-05 for the conditional probability of burst and leak rate at the end of the cycle. Also attached is a summary of the Braidwood Unit 1 Cycle Length Assessment Request for Additional Information (RAI) responses applicable to the Byron Unit 1 assessment (Attachment B), and the applicable Byron response to the RAIs (Attachments C and D).

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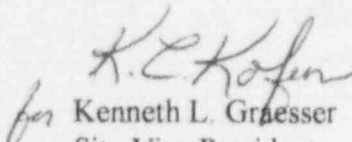
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ComEd is requesting NRC concurrence with the conclusion that Byron Unit 1 can operate for 600 days. Concurrence by November 30, 1996 is requested to allow for adequate time to plan for a steam generator inspection outage, if one is deemed necessary. Planning, scheduling, and procurement for an inspection outage is normally conducted over an eighteen month period. Scheduling an inspection contractor for a 1997 Byron Unit 1 outage requires commitments be put in place before December 1st. This need to resolve this matter expeditiously is even more critical to avoid a dual unit outage in the Fall of 1997 and to avoid the peak summer load period. Approval of our request past November 30, 1996, would result in unnecessary expenditures of resources.

If you have any questions concerning this correspondence, please contact Denise Saccomando, Senior PWR Licensing Administrator at (630) 663-7283.

Sincerely,


for Kenneth L. Graesser
Site Vice President
Byron Station

KLG/DS/rp

Attachments

cc: D. Lynch, Senior Project Manager-NRR
G. Dick, Byron Project Manager-NRR
S. Burgess, Senior Resident Inspector-Byron
A.W. Beach, Regional Administrator-RIII
Office of Nuclear Safety-IDNS