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April 4, 1997

EA 97-095

Mr. K. Graesser
Site Vice President
Byron Station
Commonwealth Edison Company
4450 North German Church Road
Byron, IL 61010

SUBJECT: NRC ROUTINE CHEMISTRY AND RADIATION PROTECTION INSPECTION
REPORTS NO. 50-454/97003(DRS); 50-455/97003(DRS) AND
NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Dear Mr. Graesser:

This refers to the inspection conducted by Mr. S. Orth and Ms. D. Hart of this office on March 3-7, 1997. The inspection included a review of authorized activities for your Byron Generating Station, Units 1 and 2.

The inspection was an examination of activities conducted under your license as they relate to chemistry, to radiation safety, and to compliance with the Commission's rules and regulations and with the conditions of your license. The inspection consisted of a selective examination of procedures and representative records, observations, and interviews with personnel.

The water chemistry management program was effective in reducing chemical contaminants which contribute to primary and secondary system corrosion and radiological source term. Although your staff made notable improvements in the thoroughness of self assessments, problems concerning chemistry technician procedure adherence continued to occur. Two violations were identified by the NRC during the inspection. The first violation concerned three examples of a failure to properly adhere to or establish required procedures. In addition, while observing work activities, the inspectors' questions of chemistry technicians work steps prevented the technicians from violating procedures. The second violation concerned the failure to train chemistry technicians on the post accident sampling system at the frequency specified by the program procedure. These violations indicate that areas for improvement exist in your chemistry program.

These violations are cited in the enclosed Notice of Violation, and the circumstances surrounding the violations are described in detail in the enclosed report. Please note that you are required to respond to this letter and should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice when preparing your response. The NRC will use your response, in part, to determine whether further enforcement action is necessary to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements.

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In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC'S "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and the enclosures will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room (PDR).

Sincerely,

/s/ G. E. Grant

Geoffrey E. Grant, Director
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket Nos. 50-454; 50-455
Licenses No. NPF-37; NPF-66

Enclosures: 1. Notice of Violation
2. Inspection Report 50-454/97003(DRS); 50-455/97003(DRS)

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