

May 8, 1997

TSCB

Ms. Irene M. Johnson, Acting Manager
Nuclear Regulatory Services
Commonwealth Edison Company
Executive Towers West III
1400 Opus Place, Suite 500
Downers Grove, IL 60515

SUBJECT: RELIEF REQUEST FOR NON-CODE REPAIR - BRAIDWOOD STATION, UNIT 1
(TAC NO. M97679)

Dear Ms. Johnson:

By letter dated January 9, 1997, Commonwealth Edison Company (ComEd) requested temporary relief from the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Code, Section XI, requirements to repair a through-wall leakage that was discovered on the 6-inch by 8-inch reducer located on the Essential Service Water System (SX). The leak rate from the flaw was approximately 2 gpm in a line that is used approximately 5 minutes per 8 hour shift to backwash a strainer in the SX. ComEd's operability assessment and its bases were provided to the staff by ComEd's letter of December 31, 1996.

We have reviewed the request and determined that ComEd appropriately applied the guidance contained in Generic Letter 90-05, "Guidance for Performing Temporary Non-Code Repair of ASME Code Class 1, 2, and 3 Piping." Further, we have determined that performance of an immediate Code repair would have constituted an undue burden, in that plant shutdown would have been required and would not have been in the best interest of plant safety, given the small size of the flaw, the results of the flaw evaluation showing that the piping was capable of performing its intended function, and ComEd's alternative program. Therefore, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(6)(i), the alternative is authorized until the next refueling outage. We note that the flawed piping was replaced during the refueling outage which began March 29, 1997.

The basis for the staff's conclusions are contained in the enclosed Safety Evaluation.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

Robert A. Capra, Director
Project Directorate III-2
Division of Reactor Projects - III/IV
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. STN 50-456

Enclosure: Safety Evaluation

cc w/enclosure: see next page

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