



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

May 13, 1997

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

SUBJECT: EVALUATION OF THE FIRST 10-YEAR INTERVAL INSPECTION PROGRAM PLAN
REQUEST FOR RELIEF NR-29 - BRAIDWOOD STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2 (IAC
NOS. M97134 AND M97135)

Dear Ms. Johnson:

By letter dated October 8, 1996, Commonwealth Edison Company (ComEd) submitted Revision 4 to the Inservice Inspection (ISI) Plan for Braidwood Station, Units 1 and 2. Seven proposed relief requests were included in the submittal. ComEd requested review and approval of these relief requests for use in the first 10-year ISI interval for Braidwood Station. Subsequent to the submittal, ComEd requested expedited review for Relief Request NR-29. ComEd provided additional information related to NR-29 in its letters dated February 25, 1997, March 25, 1997, and April 7, 1997.

The staff, with technical assistance from its contractor, Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL), has reviewed and evaluated the information provided by ComEd in support of NR-29. The NRC staff adopts the evaluations and conclusions contained in the Technical Letter Report (TLR) prepared by INEEL attached to the enclosed Safety Evaluation (SE). In lieu of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code (Code) and Regulatory Guide (RG) methods for volumetric examination of the reactor pressure vessel welds, ComEd proposes to use techniques qualified by the industry's Performance Demonstration Initiative. Based on the information provided, the staff has concluded that the proposed alternative provides an acceptable level of quality and safety. Pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(a)(3)(i), NR-29 is authorized for Braidwood Station, Units 1 and 2.

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I. Johnson

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Revision 4 to the Inservice Inspection Plan as submitted by ComEd and the remaining associated relief requests will be evaluated and reported under a separate cover.

Sincerely,

/s/

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

Docket Nos. STN 50-456, STN 50-457

Enclosure: SE w/attached TLR

cc w/encl: see next page

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