named below five days prior to the meeting, if possible, so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

During the initial portion of the meeting, the Subcommittee, along with any of its consultants who may be present, may exchange preliminary views regarding matters to be considered during the balance of the meeting.

The Subcommittee will then hear presentations by and hold discussions with representatives of the NRC staff, BWR Owners' Group, GENE, their consultants, and other interested persons regarding this review.

Further information regarding topics to be discussed, whether the meeting has been cancelled or rescheduled, the Chairman's ruling on requests for the opportunity to present oral statements and the time allotted therefor can be obtained by contacting the cognizant ACRS staff engineer, Mr. Paul A. Boehnert (telephone 301/415–8065) between 7:30 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. (EST). Persons planning to attend this meeting are urged to contact the above named individual on the working day prior to the meeting to be advised of any potential changes in the proposed agenda, etc., that may have occurred.

Dated: January 13, 1995.

Sam Duraiswamy,

Chief, Nuclear Reactors Branch. [FR Doc. 95–1471 Filed 1–19–95; 8:45 am] BILLING CODE 7590–01–M

[Docket No. 50-237]

Commonwealth Edison Company; (Dresden Nuclear Power Station, Unit 2); Exemption

I

Commonwealth Edison Company (ComEd, the licensee) is the holder of Facility Operating License No. DPR-19, which authorizes operation of the Dresden Nuclear Power Station, Unit 2 (the facility), at a steady-state power level not in excess of 2527 megawatts thermal. The facility is a boiling water reactor located at the licensee's site in Grundy County, Illinois. This license provides, among other things, that the facility is subject to all rules, regulations, and Orders of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) now or hereafter in effect.

П

By letter dated November 23, 1994, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12(a), ComEd requested a schedular exemption for Dresden, Unit 2, from the 24-month test interval for the Type B and C local leak rate test (LLRT) as required by 10 CFR

Part 50, Appendix J, Sections III.D.2(a) and III.D.3. The exemption is requested to avoid a potential reactor shut down to perform the Type B and C tests.

Due to two forced outages, ComEd has had to reschedule the Dresden, Unit 2, refueling outage from February 1995 to July 1995. Subsequently, ComEd requested a maximum extension of up to an additional 180 days for the most extreme case, from performing the Type B and C testing. The Type B and C tests cannot be performed during power operation.

Ш

In its letter dated November 23, 1994, ComEd requested a one-time exemption from the 24-month Type B and C test interval requirements of Appendix J for certain volumes (i.e., bellows, manway gasket seals, flanges, and isolation valves) identified in Attachment III of the licensee's submittal. ComEd stated that these volumes cannot be tested while the reactor is at power and provided the basis for this conclusion in Attachment IV of their submittal.

The licensee provided leakage test results and maintenance information on these volumes for the past two refueling outages. The current maximum pathway leakage rate for Dresden, Unit 2, as determined through Type B and C leak rate testing, is 309.46 standard cubic feet per hour (scfh). This value is approximately 63 percent of the Technical Specification (TS) limit of 488.45 scfh (o.6L_a). In addition, the previous outage "as left" total minimum pathway leakage rate for Type B and C testable penetrations was 173.25 scfh.

The Type A integrated leak rate test, which obtains the summation of all potential leakage paths (including containment welds, valves, fittings, and penetrations) was performed on May 14, 1993. The resulting leakage from the test was 493.36 scfh. This value is approximately 80.8 percent of the limit specified in the TS (0.75 L_a).

In order to provide an added margin of safety and to account for possible increases in the leakage rates of untested volumes during the relatively short period of the exemption, Dresden Nuclear Power Station, United 2, will impose an administrative limit for maximum pathway leakage of 80 percent of $0.6L_a$ for the remaining Unit 2 fuel cycle.

To reduce the number of volumes which need an exemption, ComEd will test the volumes listed in Attachment V of their submittal during reactor operation. In addition, volumes listed in Attachment III of their submittal will be tested should a forced outage of suitable duration occur prior to July 16, 1995.

The staff has reviewed ComEd's submittal regarding the Appendix J test interval exemption request. In summary, the staff finds that, for the specific volumes listed in Attachment III of ComEd's submittal, extending the schedule for the required Type B and C tests by 180 days will not affect containment integrity based on the following:

1. Testing has shown low "as found" leakage during the past two outages. The ample margin between the measured leakage and the allowable leakage should accommodate any degradation likely to be experienced for these components during the extended period.

2. The intent of Appendix J was that Type B and C testing be performed during a refueling outage. It is not the intent of Appendix J to require a shutdown solely for surveillance testing. The exemption would provide relief from the requirements of Appendix J to allow a test interval extension for these components which only became

Unit 2, Cycle 14, refueling outage .
Based on the above discussion, the staff finds that for the component volumes identified in Attachment III of ComEd's submittal, an exemption from the LLRT test frequency specified in

necessary as a result of rescheduling the

Appendix J should be granted.

IV

Based on the above, the staff concludes that the licensee's proposed extension of the test intervals for test components identified in its submittal is acceptable. This is a one-time exemption from the Type B and C test interval requirements as prescribed in Appendix J, and is intended to be in effect until July 16, 1995. This approval is based on the assumption that all other tests will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of Appendix J.

The Commission's regulations at 10 CFR 50.12 provide that special circumstances must be present in order for an exemption from the regulations to be granted. According to 10 CFR 50.12(a)(2)(ii), special circumstances are present whenever application of the regulation in the particular circumstances would not serve the underlying purpose of the rule or is not necessary to achieve the underlying purpose of the rule. The underlying purpose of the requirement to perform Type B and Type C containment leak rate tests at intervals not to exceed 2 years, is to ensure that any potential leakage pathways through the containment boundary are identified within a time span that prevents significant degradation from continuing