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109 North Dearborn Street, Suite 1300 • Chicago, Illinois 60602 • Telephone: (312) 641-5570

June 29, 1983

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Office of the Sec.
Discipline & Ser.
Branch

Ivan W. Smith, Chairman
Administrative Judge
Atomic Safety and
Licensing Board
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory
Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dr. A Dixon Callahan
Administrative Judge
Union Carbide Corporation
P.O. Box Y
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 38730

Dr. Richard F. Cole
Administrative Judge
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Re: In the Matter of Commonwealth
Edison Company (Byron Station,
Units 1 and 2)
Docket No. 50-454 and 50-455

Dear Administrative Judges:

Yesterday the enclosed press release was received
by me.

This letter is to inform all parties and the Board
that Intervenor will seek to have the fact of this fine
and the underlying NRC Region III inspection report(s)
placed in evidence. The reports have been requested by
telephone from Jan Strasma of Region III, and absent a
stipulation by Edison and the staff, Intervenor will
seek an order from the Board admitting those reports.

Very truly yours,

Jane M. Whicher

Jane M. Whicher

JMW/11

cc: Service list

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Elliot Lehman
Robert B. Lifton

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PDR ADOCK 05000454
PDR
G

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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS, REGION III
799 Roosevelt Road, Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137

NEWS ANNOUNCEMENT: 83-44
CONTACT: Jan Strasma 312/932-2674
Russ Marabito 312/932-2667

NRC STAFF PROPOSES \$150,000 FINE AGAINST COMMONWEALTH EDISON COMPANY FOR ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF NRC REQUIREMENTS AT QUAD CITIES NUCLEAR STATION

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has proposed a \$150,000 fine against Commonwealth Edison Company for alleged violations of NRC requirements during the March 10-11, 1983, shutdown of the Quad Cities Nuclear Power Station Unit 1. The Quad Cities Station is near Cordova, Illinois.

A special NRC inspection of the circumstances of the shutdown identified three apparent violations of NRC regulations -- one violation involving the failure to follow the plant's shutdown procedures (including inserting the control rods in the reverse order of that required) and two violations of requirements for keeping records of operational activities and deviations.

The NRC staff concluded that the failure to follow the procedures represented a breakdown in the plant management system designed to control plant operations and ensure a safe, controlled shutdown of the reactor.

Unit 1 was being shut down for a scheduled maintenance outage.

The operator assigned to shut down the reactor by inserting control rods used a startup sequence, thus inserting the control rods in the reverse order.

Control rods are withdrawn from the reactor core in a predetermined order to increase the power of the reactor; to decrease the power level -- leading to a shutdown, for example -- a set sequence is also followed. The sequence is established to maintain consistent power levels throughout the reactor core during startup and shutdown.

The NRC staff is also concerned about the performance of NRC-licensed operators and other plant personnel during the shutdown; a meeting between the operating personnel involved and the Regional Administrator and the Director of the NRC's Office of Inspection and Enforcement is planned to review the operators' performance.

In the letter informing Commonwealth Edison of the proposed fine, James G. Keppler, NRC Regional Administrator stated: "We are concerned that this event...shows a serious degradation in plant management of facility operations and licensed operator performance. We are also concerned that plant management failed to take short-term corrective actions addressing the operators' errors and management deficiencies prior to returning the unit to operation following this event."

-More-

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The company is also required to inform the NRC of the actions it has taken or will take to prevent a recurrence of the violations involved in the shutdown, including actions involving the plant staff responsible for the shutdown activities March 10-11 and establishment of a management system for monitoring personnel performance.

Commonwealth Edison has until July 21, 1983, to pay the fine or to protest it. If the fine is protested and subsequently upheld by the NRC staff, the utility may request a hearing.

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June 27, 1983

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF INSPECTION & ENFORCEMENT
REGION III
788 ROOSEVELT ROAD
GLEN ELLYN, ILLINOIS 60137

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300

Ms. Jane Whicher
BPI
109 N. Dearborn St.
Suite 1300
Chicago, IL 60602

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

from

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

SERVICE LIST

Ivan W. Smith, Chairman
Administrative Judge
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Steven C. Goldberg, Esq.
Office of the General Counsel
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory
Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dr. A. Dixon Callahan
Administrative Judge
Union Carbide Corporation
P.O. Box Y
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 38730

Office of the Secretary of
the Commission
ATTN: Docketing & Service
Section
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory
Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dr. Richard F. Cole
Administrative Judge
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

David Thomas, Esq.
77 South Wacker Drive
Chicago, IL 60621

Alan P. Bielawski, Esq.
Isham Lincoln & Beale
Three First National Plaza
Chicago, IL 60603

Joseph Callo, Esq.
Isham Lincoln & Beale
1120 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Room 325
Washington, D.C. 20036

Ms. Betty Johnson
1907 Stratford Lane
Rockford, IL 61107