



Commonwealth Edison
Quad-Cities Nuclear Power Station
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BBS-73-64

April 6, 1973

Mr. Angelo Giambusso
Deputy Director for Reactor Projects
Directorate of Licensing
U. S. Atomic Energy Commission
Washington, D. C. 20545

Reference: Quad-Cities Nuclear Power Station
Docket Numbers 50-254 and 50-265
DPR-29 and 30, Appendix A, Sections
1.0.A.3 and 3.8.D.3.

Dear Mr. Giambusso:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of an unplanned release of radioactive liquid waste to the Mississippi River on March 29, 1973 due to an improper valve line-up. The concentration in the discharge bay as a result of this occurrence, however, never exceeded eight per cent of the allowable discharge limit of 1×10^{-7} uc/ml. This abnormal occurrence was reported to you by telegram on March 30, 1973.

Description of Incident

At 5:05 a.m. on March 29, 1973, the radwaste operator began discharging the "A" Floor Drain Sample Tank to the river after obtaining two independent samples and checking the valve line-up. Based on the highest of the two samples, 1.04×10^{-4} uc/ml, and the existing dilution flow from six circulating water pumps and two service water pumps a maximum discharge rate of 90 gpm was specified. The tank was actually discharged at 48 gpm which was calculated to be equivalent to 5.1% of Technical Specification 3.8.D.2.a.

At 7:05 a.m. the day shift operator began processing water from the Floor Drain Collector Tank to "B" Floor Drain Sample Tank. At 7:40 a.m., the operator noticed that the level in the "B" Floor Drain Sample Tank was not increasing

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as expected and that the "A" Floor Drain Sample Tank inlet valve (A.O. 1/2-2001-142A) was open. The discharge of "A" Floor Drain Sample Tank to the river was immediately terminated and the shift engineer was notified. He ordered the operator to continue processing the collector to the "A" tank and to obtain two new samples of the tank when filled.

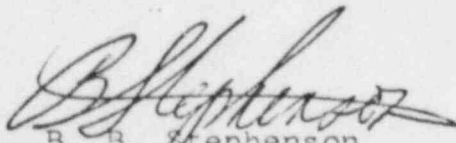
Conclusions and Corrective Action

The results of the new samples on the "A" Floor Drain Sample Tank were 1.6×10^{-4} and 1.48×10^{-4} uc/ml. With the 48 gpm discharge rate it was determined that the concentration in the discharge bay was a small fraction, less than 8%, of the Technical Specification limit at all times.

The valve line-up error was detected by the operator monitoring tank level changes in accordance with procedures for processing the collector tank. These procedures were reviewed and although they were adequate, a revision will be made to include a check of the inlet valve on any tank going to the river whenever the processing of a collector tank to a sample tank is begun. Also the importance of the valve line-up check prior to discharging any tank to the river was stressed to all operators.

Very truly yours,

COMMONWEALTH EDISON COMPANY
QUAD CITIES NUCLEAR POWER STATION


B. B. Stephenson
Superintendent

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