

October 22, 1996

EA 96-355

Mr. J. H. Mueller
Site Vice President
Zion Generating Station
Commonwealth Edison Company
101 Shiloh Boulevard
Zion, IL 60099

SUBJECT: NRC ENGINEERING AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT (E&TS) INSPECTION
REPORT NO. 50-295/96011(DRS); 50-304/96011(DRS)

Dear Mr. Mueller:

This refers to the engineering and technical support inspection conducted by Mr. Z. Falevits and others of this office from July 22 through August 22, 1996. The inspection included a review of activities authorized for your Zion Nuclear Generating Station. At the conclusion of the inspection, the findings were discussed with those members of your staff identified in the enclosed report.

The areas examined during the inspection are identified in the report. Within these areas, the inspection consisted of a selective examination of design documents, procedures and representative records, interviews with personnel, and observations of activities in progress. The purpose of the inspection was to determine whether activities authorized by your license were conducted safely and in accordance with NRC requirements.

The team determined that significant problems existed in several technical areas and engineering processes. Examples included: an ineffective 10 CFR 50.59 safety evaluation process, inadequate modification closeout and post-modification testing process, lack of control and understanding of the Technical Specification Interpretation process that allowed inappropriate interpretations, inadequate identification and resolution of recurring equipment deficiencies and examples of failure to follow procedures and inadequate procedures. Oversight of the above engineering activities was considered weak.

When viewed in the aggregate, the problems described in this report represent a significant deficiency in the overall execution of engineering activities. Your close and immediate attention to these problems is warranted. The specific areas of apparent violation are described in the paragraph below.

Based on the results of this inspection, five apparent violations were identified and are being considered for escalated enforcement action in accordance with the "General Statement of Policy and Procedure for NRC Enforcement Actions" (Enforcement Policy), NUREG-1600. The first apparent violation involved an inadequate 10 CFR 50.59 safety evaluation process, which resulted in lack of safety evaluations or inadequate safety

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