

Public  
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December 4, 1996

Mr. E. Kraft, Site Vice President  
Quad Cities Station  
Commonwealth Edison Company  
22710 206th Avenue North  
Cordova, IL 61242

Dear Mr. Kraft:

Enclosed for your review is the Systematic Assessment of Licensee Performance (SALP) 13 Report for the Quad Cities Nuclear Power Station covering the period July 23, 1995, through October 26, 1996. This report will be discussed with you at a public meeting to be held at the Quad Cities Station on December 18, 1996, at 10:00 a.m. (CDT).

During this meeting you are encouraged to candidly discuss any comments you may have regarding our report.

In accordance with Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) policy, I have reviewed the recommendations from the SALP Board assessment and concur with their ratings. The functional areas of plant operations and plant support were rated Category 2; maintenance and engineering areas were rated a Category 3. It is my view that the conduct of nuclear activities in connection with the Quad Cities facility was adequate. While overall performance improved in some areas, persistent weaknesses in the work control process, material condition, engineering evaluations, and corrective actions limited your progress.

Of particular importance this assessment period was your ability to sustain the momentum started last assessment period to improve performance in the area of plant operations. Improvements in plant operations included better implementation of performance standards, improved procedural adherence, and enhanced trending and investigation of operations performance problems. Sustained improvements were also demonstrated in radiation protection, particularly with ALARA planning and plant water chemistry. In addition, progress was made toward improving the material condition of the station through modification and repair of selected systems. Your initiatives to improve the residual heat removal service water, control rod drive, feedwater, and electro-hydraulic control systems were notable. The decision to keep Unit 1 shut down for an additional 90 days and Unit 2 shut down for 75 days this past summer while restoring safety margins and resolving design related problems was conservative and clearly focused on safety. Also noted during this assessment period was your improved self assessment capability across all functional areas as a result of lowering the threshold for problem identification and improving the tracking and trending of problems.

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At the end of the previous assessment period, some progress was seen at improving engineering support to the station. Of note during this assessment period was the contribution engineering made regarding material condition improvements and resolving design problems. However, a number of examples this period indicate that the expected engineering performance level was not achieved. Specifically, narrow root cause evaluations for multiple failures of safety systems, inadequate corrective actions for long-standing deficiencies with structural support of safety systems, and weak understanding of plant design associated with your proposed restart after the May 1996 severe storm demonstrated that continued management attention is required to foster improved performance. These examples weighed heavily in our assessment and supported the Category 3 rating in engineering.

Station performance continued to be challenged by weaknesses in safety system performance, work control, supervisory oversight, and the quality of maintenance activities. These same concerns were noted as weaknesses in the last assessment period and contributed to the repeat Category 3 rating in maintenance.

At the SALP meeting you should be prepared to discuss our assessments and your plans to improve performance in the maintenance and engineering areas in particular, and in other areas where weaknesses are discussed in the enclosed SALP report. Additionally, you are requested to respond in writing within 30 days after the meeting, specifically addressing corrective actions planned to improve your performance in the maintenance and engineering areas.

In accordance with Section 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," Part 2, Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, a copy of this letter will be placed in the NRC's Public Document Room.

Should you have any questions concerning the SALP report, we would be pleased to discuss them with you.

Sincerely,

/s/A. Bill Beach

A. Bill Beach

Regional Administrator

Docket No. 50-254

Docket No. 50-265

Enclosure: SALP 13

Report No. 50-254;265/96001

(See attached occurrence)

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