

PUBLIC

IE-01

January 29, 1997

EA 97-021

Mr. W. T. Subalusky, Jr.
Site Vice President
LaSalle County Station
Commonwealth Edison Company
2601 North 21st Road
Marseilles, IL 61341

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT NOS. 50-373/96-13(DRP) & 50-374/96-13(DRP)
AND NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Dear Mr. Subalusky:

On October 25, 1996, the NRC completed an inspection at your LaSalle facility. The enclosed report presents the results of that inspection. The issue pertaining to reactor core isolation cooling (RCIC) system rupture disks, identified during the inspection, was also discussed in a subsequent inspection exit meeting conducted on December 13, 1996.

Based on the results of this inspection, the NRC has determined that five violations of NRC requirements occurred. These violations are cited in the enclosed Notice of Violation (Notice) and the circumstances surrounding them are described in detail in the subject inspection report. The subject violations involve several examples of poor worker practices in the areas of radiological controls and housekeeping, fire protection controls for welding, and procedural adherence. We are particularly concerned that in some instances operations and maintenance department first line supervisors conveyed non-conservative procedural adherence expectations to workers. In addition, the examples involving poor worker practices that are cited in the enclosed Notice, an ineffective overview of engineering requests, and the failure to address RCIC system rupture disk problems, reflect continuing problems with effective resolution of long-term performance issues.

You are required to respond to this letter for the issues cited in the enclosed Notice and should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice when preparing your response. The NRC will use your response, in part, to determine whether further enforcement action is necessary to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements.

In addition, one apparent violation was identified and is 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 apparent violation involves the failure to implement corrective actions following the 1994 RCIC system rupture disc event and, as a result, another RCIC rupture disk event occurred on August 28, 1996. Accordingly, no Notice of Violation is presently being issued for this inspection finding. In addition, please be advised that the number and

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characterization of apparent violations described in the enclosed inspection report may change as a result of further NRC review.

You will be informed under separate correspondence whether we plan to schedule a pre-decisional enforcement conference with you to discuss this apparent violation. The decision whether we hold a pre-decisional enforcement conference does not mean that the NRC has determined that a violation has occurred or that enforcement action will be taken. You will be advised by separate correspondence of the results of our deliberations on this matter. No response regarding the apparent violation is required at this time.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter, its enclosures, and your response will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room (PDR).

Sincerely,

/s/ J. A. Grobe for
James L. Caldwell, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket Nos: 50-373; 50-374
License Nos: NPF-11; NPF-18

Enclosures: 1. Notice of Violation
2. Inspection Report 50-373/96-13, 50-374/96-13

PLEASE SEE ATTACHED CONCURRENCES

DOCUMENT NAME: R:\INSPRPTS\POWERS\LASA\LAS96013.DRP

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You will be informed under separate correspondence regarding scheduling of a pre-decisional enforcement conference to discuss this apparent violation. The decision to hold a pre-decisional enforcement conference does not mean that the NRC has determined that a violation has occurred or that enforcement action will be taken. This conference would be held to obtain information to enable the NRC to make an enforcement decision, such as a common understanding of the facts, root causes, missed opportunities to identify the apparent violation sooner, corrective actions, significance of the issues, and the need for lasting and effective corrective action. In addition, this would be an opportunity for you to point out any errors in our inspection report and for you to provide any information concerning your perspectives on: 1) the severity of the violation, 2) the application of the factors that the NRC considers when it determines the amount of a civil penalty that may be assessed in accordance with Section VI.B.2 of the Enforcement Policy, and 3) any other application of the Enforcement Policy to this case, including the exercise of discretion in accordance with Section VII.

You will be advised by separate correspondence of the results of our deliberations on this matter. No response regarding the apparent violation is required at this time.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter, its enclosures, and your response will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room (PDR).

Sincerely,

James L. Caldwell, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket Nos: 50-373; 50-374
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DATE	12/24/96		12/26/96		12/30/96		12/ /96	

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cc w/encl: T. J. Maiman, Senior Vice President
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