

DCO

November 21, 1996

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

SUBJECT: NRC ROUTINE RADIATION PROTECTION INSPECTION REPORTS NO.  
50-295/96016(DRS); 50-304/96016(DRS)

Dear Mr. Mueller:

This refers to the inspection conducted by Messrs. S. K. Orth, R. L. Glinski, and K. J. Lambert of this office on September 23 - October 24, 1996. The inspection included a review of authorized activities for your Zion Generating Station, Units 1 and 2.

The inspection was an examination of activities conducted under your license as they relate to radiation safety and to compliance with the Commission's rules and regulations and with the conditions of your license. The inspection consisted of a selective examination of procedures and representative records, observations, and interviews with personnel.

Significant weaknesses were identified concerning the operability of process radiation monitors. This problem has been a concern at your facility for several years. Although your staff has developed plans to correct deficiencies, the system's performance has not improved. Radiation monitor indications in the Control Room have provided your operations staff incorrect information concerning the status of inoperable radiation monitors. In some instances, your staff have failed to take required actions and compensatory samples for inoperable radiation monitors.

A number of radiological impediments, including high dose rate and high contamination areas, encumbered access to certain plant safety systems. Although your staff has identified the significant radiological impediments, your progress in reducing plant contamination and radiological source term has been limited.

Based on the results of this inspection, certain of your activities appeared to be in violation of NRC requirements, as specified in the enclosed Notice of Violation (Notice). The first violation concerns the failure to follow radiation protection procedures. The three additional violations concern the failure to take required actions for inoperable radiation monitors. These violations are of particular concern because of the longstanding radiation monitor operability problems. Continued problems in this area may lead to more significant enforcement action. In addition to the planned corrective actions required by the enclosed Notice, please address in your response to this letter your plans to resolve the radiation monitor operability problems.

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You are required to respond to this letter and should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice when preparing your response. In your response, you should document the specific actions taken and any additional actions you plan to prevent recurrence. After reviewing your response to this Notice, including your proposed corrective actions and the results of future inspections, the NRC will determine whether further NRC enforcement action is necessary to ensure compliance with NRC regulatory requirements.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the Commission's regulations, a copy of this letter, the enclosures, and your response to this letter will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

We will gladly discuss any questions you have concerning this inspection.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by Brent Clayton (for)

Geoffrey E. Grant, Director  
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket Nos. 50-295; 50-304

Enclosures: 1. Notice of Violation  
2. Inspection Reports No.  
50-295/96016(DRS);  
50-304/96016(DRS)

See Attached Distribution

DOCUMENT NAME: G:DRS\ZIO96016.DRS (SEE ATTACHED CONCURRENCE)

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This violation is of particular concern because of the long standing radiation monitor operability problems. In addition to the planned corrective actions required by the enclosed Notice, please address in your response to this letter your plans to resolve the radiation monitor operability problems.

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Sincerely,

Geoffrey E. Grant, Director  
Division of Reactor Safety

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November 21, 1996

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