

Commonwealth Edison Company
1400 Opus Place
Downers Grove, IL 60515



February 18, 1997

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attention: Document Control Desk
Washington, D.C. 20555

Subject: Zion Nuclear Power Station Units 1 and 2
NRC Docket Numbers 50-295 and 50-304

In the fall of 1996, I decided to commission a comprehensive assessment of performance at LaSalle and Zion Stations. I appointed a team comprised of seven independent nuclear consultants, each with more than 20 years of experience in operations, maintenance, engineering support, and management at best-performing nuclear plants. During the onsite portion of its review, the team was augmented by approximately ten INPO and industry peer experts. I asked the team to identify gaps between our performance and that of the best nuclear plants in the United States, and to place particular emphasis on the fundamental causes that have prevented achievement of best performance. Enclosed is the Independent Assessment Team Report for Zion Station.

On November 19, 1996 members of my staff and the ISAT team leader visited your office to review the process used for the assessment. Over a period of three weeks the Team reviewed written performance monitoring and assessment documentation and then conducted a two week onsite inspection. The Team debriefed site management at Zion on November 23, 1996. Information from the debrief was made available to you during a visit to the region on December 23, 1996 by members of my staff and the ISAT. Zion management reviewed the report, discussed the results in meetings with the workforce and re-assessed our 1997 Operational Plan to assure the plans are responsive to the insights provided by the ISAT. In addition, ComEd has scheduled a public briefing on February 20, 1997 at which the Zion management team will review their responsive actions with the ISAT.

I have personally reviewed the ISAT Report and agree with its conclusions. The Chief Nuclear Operating Officer, Harry Keiser, and I have set expectations for the Zion Site Vice President and corrective actions have already been initiated at Zion Station. Although the ISAT focused upon fundamental causes and did not review the effectiveness of our ongoing improvement initiatives, the ISAT did recognize that many of the necessary corrective actions were already in place as actions in our

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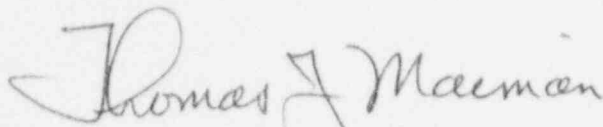
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1996 Operational Plan. Additional corrective actions to assure that the ISAT fundamental causes are addressed have been incorporated in our 1997 Operational Plan. Long term sustainable improvement will be the focus in our future Operational Plans. Mr. Keiser has relayed his expectations to the site on the effective resolution of these issues and will be performing periodic assessments of our progress.

The self-initiated assessment by a respected team of industry professionals was painful, we knew it would be, and we accept it. However, we also know that unless we measure ourselves by the standards of the best plants, we will never achieve best-in-class performance ourselves. I hope that our willingness to publicly expose our weaknesses and to refocus our people and plans on excellent performance, not just adequate performance, is recognized as new.

It is my mandate to operate ComEd's 12 nuclear reactors in a safe manner. With a focus on operational excellence, coupled with the development of a strong self-assessing culture, I believe ComEd will demonstrate sustainable performance improvement and achieve best-in-class nuclear industry performance.

Sincerely,



Thomas J. Maiman
Executive Vice President

cc: Mr. A. Bill Beach