

PUBLIC

IE-01

February 20, 1997

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

SUBJECT: NRC RESIDENT INSPECTION REPORT 50-254;265/96020(DRP) AND  
NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Dear Mr. Kraft:

This refers to the inspection conducted on December 7, 1996, through January 27, 1997, at the Quad Cities Nuclear Power Station. The purpose of the inspection was to determine whether activities authorized by the license were conducted safely and in accordance with NRC requirements. During this period, routine resident inspections were performed. Based on the inspectors' findings, overall performance at the Quad Cities station was safe. At the conclusion of the inspection, the findings were discussed with those members of your staff identified in the enclosed report.

Over the course of the inspection period, two violations of NRC requirements were identified. The first violation includes three examples of procedural non-compliance by control room operators. The cited examples were identified by you; however, the violation does not meet our non-cited criteria, because initial corrective actions were not sufficient to prevent recurrence. In the past, control room operators have demonstrated sustained good performance, and we are concerned that this violation indicates a declining trend.

The second violation involves a failure to adequately test the control room emergency ventilation system in accordance with the Technical Specification surveillance requirements. This violation is of concern since this is the second NRC identified deficiency with control room emergency ventilation system testing. Additionally, with your current focus of attention on the station's emergency ventilation system, there appears to have been previous opportunities to self-identify the issue.

These violations are cited in the enclosed Notice of Violation (Notice), and the circumstances surrounding the violations are described in detail in the enclosed report. Please note that you are required to respond to this letter 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.

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In addition to the concerns described above, our inspection identified that the station's calibration program does not include some support instruments that are relied upon for safety-related equipment (Section R2.1). This issue is discussed in detail in the enclosed report and is considered an Unresolved Item that is still under review to determine the significance of the issue.

The inspection also identified some weaknesses in operability evaluations and followup actions for important systems including the emergency diesel generators (Sections E1.1 & E1.2). One aspect of this inspection finding concerns the criteria used to define your emergency diesel performance. Those criteria are not always applied in a consistent manner, possibly resulting in performance indicators that do not reflect all equipment performance problems. It is important that we have a clear understanding of equipment reliability and performance history. In addition to the response required by the enclosed Notice, you are requested to provide a written explanation within 30 days of receipt of this letter, describing the methods utilized to trend the performance of the emergency diesel generators. Your response should explain your criteria for defining emergency diesel "valid test failures" and provide an assessment of our Inspector Followup Item regarding the most recent diesel start failure.

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

Sincerely,

/s/ G. A. Grobe for

James L. Caldwell, Director  
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket Nos.: 50-254, 50-265  
License Nos.: DPR-29, DPR-30

Enclosures:

1. Notice of Violation
2. Inspection Report 50-254;265/96020(DRP)

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