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IE-01

April 25, 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;265/97002(DRP) AND
NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Dear Mr. Kraft:

This refers to the inspection conducted on January 28 through March 17, 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. The decision to shut down Unit 1 to repair a failed reactor protection system relay was appropriate and reflected conservative decision making. At the conclusion of the inspection, the findings were discussed with those members of your staff identified in the enclosed report.

During this period, an unexpected auto-initiation of the Unit 2 high pressure coolant injection (HPCI) system occurred while performing a surveillance test. Inadvertent HPCI injection with the reactor at power could have resulted in a reactivity transient. Although both equipment and operators performed as expected in response to the event, the inspectors identified that multiple barriers to prevent such occurrences were ineffective. Events such as these are unnecessary challenges to engineered safety feature equipment and operators. The failure to properly control this testing activity was considered a violation of NRC requirements.

The inspectors also identified a violation involving the failure to follow annunciator response procedures to restore turbine building ventilation to a normal configuration. This violation is of concern because the inspectors noted the abnormal condition in the control room on several occasions with no operator actions in progress to restore the proper ventilation system line up. The failure to properly control ventilation could have resulted in the spread of contamination.

The inspectors identified a third violation of NRC requirements. Operators failed to comply with the Technical Specification (TS) action statement for the Unit 1 reactor protection system (RPS) while coping with a failed RPS relay. This violation highlights the need to promptly and accurately refer to the TS requirements when abnormal conditions are encountered.

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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.

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/ J. 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;265/97002(DRP)

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