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NRC STAFF PROPOSES \$25,000 FINE FOR VIOLATIONS OF
NRC SAFETY REQUIREMENTS AT THE DRESDEN NUCLEAR PLANT

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has proposed a \$25,000 fine against Commonwealth Edison Company for multiple violations of NRC safety requirements involving a failure to properly control work activities in the Dresden nuclear power station, Unit 3, near Morris, IL.

A NRC inspection October 15-25, 1991, determined that several violations of procedural controls occurred during an in-service inspection of a valve October 11 which resulted in two employees receiving radiation exposure greater than anticipated. The exposure did not exceed NRC limits.

The unplanned exposure occurred while the workmen---an engineer and maintenance foreman---inspected the seating surfaces of the valve, which had been partially disassembled, and some of the valve's components nearby. Radiation and contamination levels on valve components were high and were not adequately determined until after the work was completed.

Pre-job briefings were not attended by appropriate personnel to assure a proper understanding of the work to be performed. Radiation dosimetry, although provided to the workers, was not appropriately placed on the individuals in such a way as to measure the highest levels of exposure. Work was not stopped even though it was being monitored by others who could see worker activity was not being performed as anticipated.

Violations of NRC requirements, include: (1) failure of the licensee to include in a pre-job briefing the Inservice Inspection Group and the radiation protection technician who monitored the two workers; (2) failure to provide the workmen with a copy of a radiation survey for their review prior to their entering the work area; (3) failure to adequately evaluate the physical positioning of the workmen so their occupational radiation dose would not exceed limits; (4) failure to perform an adequate evaluation of the valve component radiation levels and the airborne concentrations of radioactive material in the work area.

Although the radiation dose exceeded the licensee's preplanned values for the job, no medically observable effects would be expected.

Commonwealth Edison Company has until January 16, 1991, to either pay the fine or protest it. If the fine is protested and subsequently imposed formally by the NRC staff, the company can request a hearing.

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