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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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NRC STAFF PROPOSES \$100,000 FINE AGAINST COMMONWEALTH EDISON  
FOR VIOLATIONS AT QUAD CITIES NUCLEAR POWER STATION

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has proposed a \$100,000 fine against Commonwealth Edison Company for two violations of NRC requirements associated with the emergency diesel generators at the Quad Cities Nuclear Power Station. The two-unit Quad Cities Station is near Cordova, Illinois.

The Quad Cities Station has three diesel generators to supply electrical power to plant safety systems if normal power supplies fail. Each unit has one diesel generator and a third diesel generator is available to either unit.

A special NRC inspection March through May 1993 determined that the shared diesel generator would not function under certain accident conditions because of a design deficiency. The diesel generator would not operate if there were a loss of all normal offsite power sources at the same time there was a major reactor cooling system accident for the plant's Unit 2.

This design deficiency was discovered by utility personnel after a cooling water pump for the diesel failed to start during a test. The design deficiency had existed since the plant went into operation in 1972.

The second violation involved bearing damage in a cooling water pump for the Unit 2 diesel generator that would have made the diesel generator inoperable. The problem was identified on March 29, 1993, by a utility operator who discovered that a lubrication device was improperly installed.

The lubrication device was installed incorrectly during maintenance in January 1992.

The utility has until August 30, 1993, to pay the fine or to protest it. If the fine is protested and subsequently imposed by the NRC staff, the utility may request a hearing.

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