

No. 93-111  
Tel. 301-504-2240

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
(Friday, August 13, 1993)

NRC STAFF PROPOSES \$50,000 FINE FOR VIOLATIONS OF FIRE PROTECTION  
REQUIREMENTS AT QUAD CITIES NUCLEAR STATION

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has proposed a \$50,000 fine against Commonwealth Edison Company for violations of NRC requirements for fire protection and plant shutdown systems at the Quad Cities Nuclear Power Station. The two-unit facility is located near Cordova, Illinois.

The NRC requires that nuclear power plants have systems and procedures to safely shut the plants down under accident and fire conditions. These shutdown systems include equipment from one reactor unit supporting the second unit's shutdown. A special NRC inspection in February through May 1993 identified violations of those fire protection and shutdown system requirements.

A utility fire protection engineer had initially identified some of the problems, and they were reported to the NRC in January 1993.

The violations identified by the NRC inspection included failing to review equipment operability to make sure that safe shutdown equipment on one unit, required to be operable for the shutdown of the second unit, was, in fact, available. Specifically, Quad Cities Unit 1 operated January through March 1991 while a Unit 2 safety component, required to be available for Unit 1, was out of service.

The utility was also cited for failing to establish procedures for monitoring the operability of equipment which would be needed for safe shutdown for the opposite unit. Previous utility reviews had identified deficiencies in the plant's procedures for tracking equipment availability, but the deficiencies were not corrected until the issues were raised in the NRC inspection.

An additional violation was identified for failing to test fire detection equipment at the required intervals from 1991 through April 1993.

In notifying Commonwealth Edison of the proposed fine, NRC Regional Administrator John B. Martin stated: "The root cause of the violations was management's failure to place a proper safety emphasis on fire protection and safe shutdown issues. This resulted in failure to effect corrective actions for known fire protection and safe shutdown deficiencies...."

Commonwealth Edison has until September 7, 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.

#