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NRC STAFF PROPOSES \$50,000 FINE AGAINST COMMONWEALTH EDISON CO.
FOR VIOLATIONS OF NRC REQUIREMENTS AT ZION NUCLEAR STATION

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has proposed a \$50,000 fine against Commonwealth Edison Company for a series of violations of NRC regulations occurring at the Zion Nuclear Power Station from February through May.

The two-reactor Zion Station is located at Zion, Illinois.

NRC Regional Administrator A. Bill Beach said, in notifying the utility of the fine: "These violations are of concern because operators made fundamental errors which demonstrated insufficient attention to detail during the performance of required duties, and the corrective actions to prevent recurrence were either ineffective or untimely."

He added, "A contributing factor to these errors was the absence of supervision in the field to monitor operations and maintenance personnel and provide guidance during the performance of safety-related activities."

Two violations occurred during the testing of emergency diesel generators in May. During one test, an operator adjusted the wrong control, causing the diesel generator to shut down. In the other test, operators did not make sure all auxiliary equipment was available and operated the diesel generator for 20 minutes without cooling water flow. The diesel generator was not damaged.

Another operator error occurred when a tank inside the plant overflowed because valves were not properly aligned. About 560 gallons of water containing small amounts of radioactive contamination spilled on the floor of the auxiliary building.

In the fourth instance, the timing system of one emergency core cooling system was taken out of service for maintenance while the timing system of the parallel system was out of service for maintenance. The timing systems control the starting of the emergency core cooling system if it were needed.

In the fifth violation, the company was cited for several instances of failing to complete the required planning and review

prior to undertaking maintenance on safety equipment while the plant was in operation.

The company has until September 24 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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