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Region III Office of Public Affairs
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NRC STAFF TO CONDUCT INDEPENDENT SAFETY INSPECTION
AT DRESDEN NUCLEAR POWER STATION

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will conduct an Independent Safety Inspection beginning September 30 to evaluate the performance of the Dresden Nuclear Power Station. The Dresden Station, operated by Commonwealth Edison Company, is near Morris, Illinois.

The 20-member inspection team will meet at 10 a.m. September 30 with representatives of Commonwealth Edison to open the onsite phase of the inspection. This meeting is open to public observation. It will be in the Training Building at the Dresden plant, which is located on Dresden Road just north of Lorenzo Road in Grundy County, Illinois.

The Dresden Station has been on the NRC's "Watch List" of nuclear power plants with performance problems since 1992. It also was on the "Watch List" in 1987 and 1988.

This special independent team inspection will evaluate the current performance of the Dresden Station and the effectiveness of corrective actions taken by the utility. It will also focus on the maintenance activities and the conformance of the plant to design and licensing criteria. The findings of the team will provide a basis for further NRC actions, including the next "Watch List" review in January 1997.

The Independent Safety Inspection Team is headed by Samuel J. Collins, who is Deputy Regional Administrator of the NRC's Region IV Office in Arlington, Texas. Arthur T. Howell, Deputy Director of the Division of Reactor Projects in Region IV, has been designated as team leader. The team members are drawn from NRC personnel who have not had recent regulatory responsibilities for the Dresden facility. The team also includes several outside consultants.

The inspection schedule calls for the team to be onsite September 30 - October 11 and October 28 - November 8. The team will present its findings in a meeting, open to the public, in

December. The schedule for the meeting will be announced later.

A written report will be issued following the meeting.

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