

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
Region III Office of Public Affairs  
801 Warrenville Road, Lisle, IL 60532-4351

NEWS ANNOUNCEMENT: RIII-98-01 January 2, 1998  
CONTACT: Jan Strasma 630/829-9663  
Angela Greenman 630/829-9662  
E-mail: opa3@nrc.gov

NRC PREDECISIONAL ENFORCEMENT CONFERENCE ON APPARENT  
VIOLATIONS OF NRC REQUIREMENTS AT QUAD CITIES STATION

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet January 9 with representatives of Commonwealth Edison Company for a predecisional enforcement conference on apparent testing violations at the Quad Cities Nuclear Power Station. The facility is in Cordova, Illinois.

The meeting will start at 9:30 a.m. in the Third Floor Conference Room of the NRC Region III Office, 801 Warrenville Road, Lisle, Illinois. It is open to public observation. NRC officials will be available at its conclusion to answer questions from the news media and other interested observers.

The discussion will focus on Commonwealth Edison's apparent failure to perform a required leakage test of the reactor vessel and certain piping systems before starting up Quad Cities Unit 2 in June of last year. The utility did not perform the test until seven days later.

During an inspection in November and December, NRC inspectors found several instances where the utility inadequately implemented or missed other examinations or leakage tests. Inspectors also noted that the utility did not perform an adequate safety review of starting up the unit prior to completing the test.

The decision to hold an enforcement conference does not mean the NRC has determined that a violation has occurred or that enforcement action will be taken. Rather, the purpose is to discuss apparent violations, their causes and safety significance; to provide the licensee an opportunity to point out any errors that may have been made in the NRC inspection report; and to enable the company to outline its proposed corrective actions.

No decision on the apparent violations or any contemplated enforcement action, such as a fine, will be made at this conference. Those decisions will be made by senior NRC officials at a later date.

# # # #