

May 18, 2000

Mr. Oliver D. Kingsley  
President, Nuclear Generation Group  
Commonwealth Edison Company  
ATTN: Regulatory Services  
Executive Towers West III  
1400 Opus Place, Suite 500  
Downers Grove, IL 60515

SUBJECT: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER - QUAD CITIES

Dear Mr. Kingsley:

On May 5, 2000, the NRC staff completed its end-of-cycle plant performance assessment of Quad Cities Nuclear Power Station. The end-of-cycle review involved the participation of all technical divisions in evaluating performance indicators (PIs) and inspection results for the period of May 30, 1999 to April 1, 2000. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of our assessment of your safety performance during this time period.

Overall, Quad Cities was operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety. Quad Cities met all cornerstone objectives. However, plant performance for the most recent quarter is within the degraded cornerstone column (minimal reduction in the safety margin) of the NRC's Action Matrix, based on a yellow performance indicator (results in definitive, required action by the NRC). The yellow performance indicator was the High Pressure Injection Unavailability indicator in the Mitigating Systems Cornerstone. This was caused by the Unit 1 high pressure coolant injection auxiliary oil pump's failure to operate in the automatic mode. All inspection findings for the entire period were classified as having very low safety significance (green).

As a result of performance at Quad Cities being within the degraded cornerstone column of the NRC's Action Matrix, we will be conducting Supplemental Inspection 95002 to review your evaluation of the root and contributing causes of the High Pressure Injection Unavailability. During this inspection we will review your evaluation of the issue and will conduct an independent evaluation of the extent of the condition associated with any identified root causes. Please inform us of your planned schedule for conducting and completing your evaluation so that we can schedule our inspection most effectively. We believe a meeting with you would be appropriate. We will be contacting your staff to arrange for a mutually agreeable time and location for a meeting to discuss the Mitigating Systems Cornerstone and your proposed actions to address the issues in this area.

During the first three quarters of the assessment cycle, there were additional performance indicators that corresponded to performance that resulted in increased NRC oversight (white). As discussed in our mid-cycle review letter of December 22, 1999, the Heat Removal System Unavailability performance indicator was white in the third and fourth quarters of 1999 and the

Protected Area Equipment performance indicator was white in the third quarter of 1999. We completed supplemental inspections in both of these areas and concluded your corrective actions were appropriate. Subsequent changes to the performance indicator reporting criteria in these areas resulted in performance at a level requiring no additional NRC oversight (green) for both areas. Additionally, based on our verifications of performance indicator data during the latter portion of the assessment period, we concluded that your efforts to ensure correct reporting of performance indicator data, as discussed in our mid-cycle assessment letter, have been effective. Our inspection to assess the area of Problem Identification and Resolution continues to be scheduled for June 2000 as discussed in the mid-cycle letter.

This letter advises you of our planned inspection effort resulting from the Quad Cities end-of-cycle review. The enclosed inspection plan details the scheduled inspections during the period from April 2, 2000 to March 31, 2001. We recognize that some of the listed inspections may already have occurred or be in progress but have included them for the sake of consistency with the planned inspection schedules issued earlier this year to the non-pilot plants. The inspection plan is provided to minimize the resource impact on your staff and to allow for scheduling conflicts and personnel availability to be resolved in advance of inspector arrival onsite. Routine resident inspections are not listed due to their ongoing and continuous nature. The last six months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the mid-cycle review meeting.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room and is available in the NRC Public Electronic Reading Room (PERR) at the NRC homepage, <http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/ADAMS/index.html>. More detailed information that provides the basis for this assessment is available at the following NRC website: <http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/index.html>

If circumstances arise which cause us to change this inspection plan, we will contact you to discuss the change as soon as possible. Please contact Mark Ring at 630/829-9703 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

/RA/

J. E. Dyer  
Regional Administrator

Docket Nos. 50-254, 50-265  
Licensee Nos. DPR-29, DPR-30

Enclosure: Quad Cities Inspection/Activity Plan

See Attached Distribution

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C. Crane, Senior Vice President, Nuclear Operations  
H. Stanley, Vice President, Nuclear Operations  
R. Krich, Vice President, Regulatory Services  
DCD - Licensing  
J. Dimmette, Jr., Site Vice President  
G. Barnes, Quad Cities Station Manager  
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D. DeBarre, Emergency Services and  
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of Supervisors  
M. Bladel, Scott County Sheriff  
R. Bergen, Coordinator, Emergency Management  
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J. Piatt, President, Village of Cordova  
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The Honorable LaMetta Wynn  
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The Honorable Vernon Spring  
E. N. Choate, LeClaire City Administrator  
The Honorable James Darnell  
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WES

SNB (Project Mgr.)

M. Satorius, OEDO

Chief, NRR/DISP/PIPB

Chief, NRR/DIPM/IIPB

T. Boyce, NRR

Project Director, NRR w/encls

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