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Docket Nos. 50-373
and 50-374

Mr. D. Louis Peoples
Director of Nuclear Licensing
Commonwealth Edison
P. O.Box 767
Chicago, Illinois 60690

Dear Mr. Peoples:

We have received a letter dated September 5, 1979 from Mr. Louis O. DelGeorge in which the NRC is requested to review a draft version of a proposed modification to the planned recreational facility on land adjacent to the LaSalle County Station. In the Environmental Report for the LaSalle plant, and amendments thereto, Commonwealth Edison had committed to build a facility for fishing, boating, hunting and overnight camping.

This commitment was mentioned in the cost-benefit balance in our Final Environmental Statement and in the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board's (ASLB) Initial Decision on September 5, 1973. However, in the Supplemental Initial Decision of March 18, 1974, the Board specifically deleted the recreation plan from the cost-benefit consideration. There was no licensing condition on the size or type of recreation facility in the construction permit issued on September 5, 1973. It is therefore clear that the nature of the recreational use of the LaSalle cooling lake and adjacent land was not a major consideration in the board's decisional process, although such use might be considered to represent a societal benefit.

The proposed modified recreation plan was reviewed with this background in mind. The modifications were suggested by the Illinois Department of Conservation, as indicated in the attachment to your letter of September 5, 1975. In brief the Department's proposal would limit the recreational opportunities at LaSalle to day-use only, while expanding the facilities for boat fishing and waterfowl hunting at Collins Station, Dresden Station and Powerton Station. A fish hatchery at LaSalle is also included in the proposed program. The staff discussed the modified program with representatives of Commonwealth Edison and of the Illinois Department of Conservation in a meeting at Bethesda, Maryland in August of 1979.

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We take note of the Illinois Department of Conservation's opinion that the residents of north-central Illinois would derive greater recreational benefits from the modified plan than from the original plan. Our understanding is that Commonwealth Edison will commit the same amount of financial resources to the modified program as to the original LaSalle program. We therefore have no objection to the modified plan as proposed and believe that it fulfills in a satisfactory way Commonwealth Edison's commitment to provide recreation facilities.

As to the effect this modification might have on reopening the hearing process, the staff sees no valid reason for moving to reopen the hearing on this issue since the change results in a net benefit to the public and satisfactorily fulfills Commonwealth Edison's previous commitment. This expression of staff opinion does not, of course, commit the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board to our position.

Sincerely,

Original signed by
Daniel R. Muller

Daniel R. Muller, Acting Director
Division of Site Safety and
Environmental Analysis
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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No legal objection per Colleen Woodhead & E. Reis 10/24/79 - RLB

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