

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT

REGION III

Reports No. 50-254/80-31; 50-265/80-31

Docket Nos. 50-254; 50-265

Licenses No. DPR-29; DPR-30

Licensee: Commonwealth Edison Company
Post Office Box 767
Chicago, IL 60690

Facility Name: Quad-Cities Nuclear Power Station, Units 1 and 2

Inspection At: Quad-Cities, Cordova, IL

Inspection Conducted: December 30, 1980

Inspector: *A. B. Januska*
for M. J. Oestmann

Approved By: *A. B. Januska*
for C. J. Paperiello, Chief
Environmental and Special
Projects Section

1/15/81

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Inspection Summary

Inspection on December 30, 1980 (Reports No. 50-254/80-31; 50-265/80-31)

Areas Inspected: Special, announced inspection of environmental protection including observation of the damage done by the discharge canal overflow and the corrective action being taken by the licensee. The inspection involved three inspector-hours onsite by one NRC inspector.

Results: Of the areas inspected, no items of noncompliance or deviations were determined.

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DETAILS

1. Persons Contacted

*N. Kalivianakis, Station Superintendent
T. Tamblyn, Assistant Superintendent of Operations
*W. Walschot, Lead Chemist

*Denotes those present at the exit interview.

2. Loss of Cooling Canal Lift Pumps

At approximately 2:00 a.m. on December 25, 1980, the station experienced a loss of cooling canal lift pumps, due apparently to a transient loss of pump cooling water pressure during recovery from a single pump trip. About one-half hour was required to restart the lift pumps, during which time the circulating water discharge canal (which is normally emptied by the lift pumps) overflowed and discharged to the Mississippi River. The discharge canal overflow washed out a portion of the access road to the cooling canal, causing locally severe soil erosion and undermined the site security fence. A small sand bar was created in the Mississippi River. This has no effect on river transportation.

The inspector observed the damage and took photographs of the discharge canal, the channel where the overflow discharged, and the washout of the access road and the undermining of the security fence. The licensee posted security guards immediately after the occurrence where the security fence had lost its effectiveness.

The licensee has evaluated the event. No release of radioactivity was involved. No technical specifications were violated. However, the licensee did violate the State of Illinois National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit because of an unmonitored discharge from the plant. The State of Illinois has also investigated the event.

The licensee is repairing the erosion damage and adding about 3000 yards fill of rip rap and soil to replace the washed out soil. It is estimated that the security fence repairs will require three weeks.

The completion of the access road, and repair of the security fence and other damage will be reviewed in a future inspection.

No apparent items of noncompliance or deviations were identified.

3. Exit Interview

The inspector met with licensee representatives (denoted in Paragraph 1) at the conclusion of the inspection on December 30, 1980. The inspector summarized the scope and findings of the inspection.