

DCW

JAN 06 1994

Docket No. 50-373
Docket No. 50-374

Commonwealth Edison Company
ATTN: W. Murphy, Site Vice President
LaSalle County Station
2601 North 21st Road
Marseilles, IL 61341

Dear Mr. Murphy:

SUBJECT: ROUTINE RADIATION PROTECTION INSPECTION AT LASALLE COUNTY STATION

This refers to the special safety inspection conducted by Mr. P. L. Loudon of this office on December 13 through 17, 1993. The inspection included a review of activities authorized for your LaSalle facility. At the conclusion of the inspection, the findings were discussed with those members of your staff identified in the enclosed report.

Areas examined during the inspection are identified in the report. Within these areas, the inspection consisted of a selective examination of procedures and representative records, interviews with personnel, and observation of activities in progress.

During the course of this inspection an event was reviewed which involved a worker who received an external exposure to radiation in excess of your daily administrative limits. Based on our review of the event, root causes of the event involved a malfunctioning electronic dosimeter and inappropriate job coverage by the radiation protection technician assigned to the work. Wherein this event involved a violation of NRC requirements, we shall exercise enforcement discretion on this event in that radiation protection technician performance is a problem discussed during a recent Escalated Enforcement case, and you are still in your corrective action period to resolve this particular problem. However, immediate attentiveness is required to alleviate radiation protection technician performance problems to ensure that more safety significant exposures to workers do not occur.

The event also illustrated a concern not limited to your facility. This concern is an over-reliance on the part of radiation workers and radiation protection technicians on electronic dosimeter alarms. Electronic dosimeters are effective tools that accurately monitor radiation exposures and provide immediate exposure information. However, it is the responsibility of radiation workers and radiation protection technicians working in radiation areas to visually monitor their dose and not rely solely on the dosimeter's alarm. As detailed in the enclosed report, a dosimeter alarm malfunctioned, leading to the administrative overexposure. This indicated that an attitude of reliance on electronic dosimeters alarms is strong at your facility.

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Commonwealth Edison Company

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In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the Commission's regulations, a copy of this letter and the enclosed inspection report will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

We will gladly discuss any questions you have concerning this inspection.

Sincerely,
Original Signed By William Snell

Cynthia D. Pederson, Chief
Reactor Support Programs Branch

Enclosure: Inspection Report
No. 50-373/93039(DRSS);
No. 50-374/93039(DRSS)

cc w/enclosure:
L. O. DelGeorge, Vice President,
Nuclear Oversight and Regulatory Services
J. Schmeltz, Acting Station Manager
J. Lockwood, Regulatory Assurance
Supervisor
D. Farrar, Nuclear Regulatory
Services Manager
OC/LFDCB
Resident Inspectors LaSalle
Dresden, Quad Cities
Richard Hubbard
J. W. McCaffrey, Chief, Public
Utilities Division
Licensing Project Manager, NRR
Robert Newmann, Office of Public
Counsel
State Liaison Officer
Chairman, Illinois Commerce
Commission

bcc: PUBLIC

(SEE ATTACHED SHEET)

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Sincerely,

William G. Snell, Chief
Radiological Programs Section 2

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No. 50-373/93039(DRSS);
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Nuclear Oversight and Regulatory Services
J. Schmeltz, Acting Station Manager
J. Lockwood, Regulatory Assurance
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State Liaison Officer
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Commission

bcc: PUBLIC

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Snell
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Hague
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W. Snell
for Pederson
1/6/94