

DED/DCB

MAR 21 1994

Docket No. 50-373; 50-374
License No. NPF-11; NPF-18
EA 94-053

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

Dear Mr. Murphy:

SUBJECT: RADIATION PROTECTION INSPECTION AT LASALLE COUNTY STATION

This refers to the routine safety inspection conducted by Mr. P. L. Loudon of this office on February 14 through March 4, 1994. 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. The inspection consisted of a selective examination of procedures and representative records, interviews with personnel, and observation of activities in progress.

Based on the results of this inspection, two apparent violations were identified in the radiological controls area and are being considered for escalated enforcement action in accordance with the "General Statement of Policy and Procedure for NRC Enforcement Actions" (Enforcement Policy), 10 CFR Part 2 Appendix C. Accordingly, no Notice of Violation is currently being issued for these inspection findings. The apparent violations involve the apparent deliberate contamination of female radiation workers' clothing, and the failure to adequately evaluate radiological hazards during the collection of a radioactive waste sample. A further area of concern identified during the inspection concerned potential problems with respect to chemistry technicians routinely not performing required surveys when they are collecting samples that they expect to not be a significant radiological hazard. Please be advised that the number and characterization of the apparent violations described in the enclosed report may change as a result of further NRC review.

An enforcement conference to discuss these apparent violations and concerns has been scheduled for April 5, 1994. The purpose of this conference is to discuss the apparent violations, their causes and safety significance; to provide you the opportunity to point out any errors in our inspection report; and to provide an opportunity for you to present your proposed corrective action. In addition, this is an opportunity for you to provide any information concerning your perspectives on (1) the severity of the

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violations, (2) the application of the factors that the NRC considers when it determines the amount of a civil penalty that may be assessed in accordance with Section VI.B.2 of the Enforcement Policy, and (3) any other application of the Enforcement Policy to this case.

We are significantly concerned about your continuing poor performance in radiological protection. In August 1993, we brought to your attention at the Systematic Assessment of Licensee Performance public meeting clear precursors of poor radiation protection program performance. In September 1993, a significant personnel contamination event occurred resulting in your paying a \$112,500.00 civil penalty. Now, in November 1993 workers at your LaSalle station were deliberately contaminated with radioactive materials and in February 1994 your radioactive waste and chemistry staff were not exercising basic prudent radiation safety practices that are standard throughout the industry. At the enforcement conference, we expect you to clearly and fully describe the causal factors resulting in this systematic breakdown in radiological protection and delineate the comprehensive corrective actions you will implement to stop this continuing poor performance.

You will be advised by separate correspondence of the results of our deliberations on this matter. No response regarding these apparent violations is required at this time.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice", a copy of this letter and its enclosures will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY W. L. AXELSON

W. L. Axelson, Director
Division of Radiation Safety and
Safeguards

Enclosure: Inspection Report
No. 50-373/94004(DRSS)
No. 50-374/94004(DRSS)

See Attached Distribution

(See Previous Concurrence Page)

RIII	RIII	RIII	RIII	RIII
Louden/dp 03/ /94	Snell	Hague	Grobe	Pelke

WLA
RIII
Axelson
3/21/94

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You will be advised by separate correspondence of the results of our deliberations on this matter. No response regarding these apparent violations is required at this time.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice", a copy of this letter and its enclosures will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY W. L. AXELSON

W. L. Axelson, Director
Division of Radiation Safety and
Safeguards

Enclosure: Inspection Report
No. 50-334/94004(DRSS)
No. 50-374/94004(DRSS)

See Attached Distribution

RIII Louden/dp 03/17/94	RIII Shett 3/17/94	RIII Hague 3/17/94	RIII Grobe 3/17/94	YES Pelke 3/18/94	RIII Axelson	CF-RIII Pawlik 3/17/94
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Distribution

cc w/enclosure:

L. O. DelGeorge, Vice President,
Nuclear Oversight and Regulatory Services

W. Murphy, Site Vice President

D. Ray, Station Manager

J. Lockwood, Regulatory Assurance
Supervisor

D. Farrar, Nuclear Regulatory
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Resident Inspectors - LaSalle,
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State Liaison Officer

Chairman, Illinois Commerce
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W. L. Axelson, RIII

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J. Lieberman, OE

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