



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
REGION III  
789 ROOSEVELT ROAD  
GLEN ELLYN, ILLINOIS 60137

DCD/DCB  
(RIDS)

JAN 15 1991

Docket No. 50-295  
Docket No. 50-304

Commonwealth Edison Company  
ATTN: Mr. Cordell Reed  
Senior Vice President  
Opus West III  
1400 Opus Place  
Downers Grove, IL 60515

Gentlemen:

The Initial Systematic Assessment of License Performance (SALP) 9 Report for Zion Station is enclosed for your review before our scheduled meeting of January 31, 1991. This SALP covers the period October 1, 1989 through October 31, 1990.

In accordance with Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) policy, I have reviewed the SALP Board's assessment and concur with their ratings. Your conduct of nuclear activities at the Zion facility was satisfactory; however, improvements are recommended. Following up on concerns identified in the last SALP, NRC conducted a number of intensive inspection activities during this assessment period which provided greater insight on your performance. Based on this information we conclude that, while your overall ratings have declined, current ratings are more reflective of what your ratings should have been in the previous assessment period. I note that some improvements, which can be credited to your management initiatives, were observed late in the period.

Plant Operations and Maintenance/Surveillance were both rated Category 3. Weak performance in Plant Operations can be attributed to lack of effective management oversight, weak shift supervision, and poor control room demeanor. We recognize you have reorganized your control room to improve operator demeanor and shift management involvement in plant activities; we will closely monitor results of this reorganization. Some of the weaknesses identified in the Maintenance/Surveillance area during this assessment period were also identified in the previous SALP report. Although the staff has seen some progress, the rate of improvement has been slow.

While the areas of Radiological Controls and Emergency Preparedness were both rated Category 2, I note that declining performance trends were assigned to both areas. In Radiological Controls, weaknesses were noted in controls over high radiation areas, actions to reduce personnel contaminations, and total person-rem exposure. In Emergency Preparedness, weak performance was identified in the 1990 emergency exercise; however, a remedial exercise conducted two months later showed significant improvement. Several other problems related to documentation, procedures, training, and maintenance of monitoring equipment indicate a lack of attention to detail.

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JAN 15 1991

Your performance in Engineering/Technical Support has improved; however, it was rated Category 3 and remains a concern. While we noted an increase in staffing of the Technical Staff organization and improved responsiveness to plant activities, weaknesses were noted in the control of critical motor operated valve torque switch settings, licensed operator training, and resolution of technical issues. Your performance in the Security area has improved which is indicative of the increased management attention provided during this period.

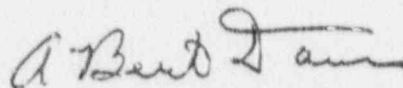
The Category 2 rating in the area of Safety Assessment/Quality Verification is the result of your self-assessment efforts and your management initiatives, most notably the Performance Improvement Plan and its successor the Management Action Plan programs. I note that your efforts in this area are beginning to produce some results. Continued success will require a high level of resource commitment, corporate support, and management attention.

At the SALP meeting, you should be prepared to discuss our findings and your plans to improve performance. The meeting is intended to provide a candid dialogue in which we may discuss any comments you may have regarding our findings. Additionally, you are requested to respond in writing specifically addressing corrective actions planned to improve your performance in the areas of Plant Operations, Radiological Controls, Maintenance/Surveillance, Emergency Preparedness, and Engineering/Technical Support. This response should include specific actions and dates by which these actions will be taken. Making reference to your Master Action Plan is acceptable in this response. Your written response should be provided within 30 days after the meeting. Your comments, a summary of our meeting, and my disposition of your comments will be issued in the Final SALP Report.

In accordance with Section 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," Part 2, Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, a copy of this letter and the Initial SALP Report will be placed in the NRC's Public Document Room.

Should you have any questions concerning the Initial SALP Report, we would be pleased to discuss them with you.

Sincerely,



A. Bert Davis  
Regional Administrator

Enclosure: Initial SALP 9  
Reports No. 50-295/91001;  
No. 50-304/91001

See Attached Distribution

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