

DES

OFFICE OF ENFORCEMENT  
NOTIFICATION OF SIGNIFICANT ENFORCEMENT ACTION

Licensee: Commonwealth Edison Company (EA 94-053)  
LaSalle County Station  
Docket Nos. 50-373 and 50-374

Subject: PROPOSED IMPOSITION OF CIVIL PENALTY - \$225,000

This is to inform the Commission that a Notice of Violation and Proposed Imposition of Civil Penalty in the amount of \$225,000 will be issued on or about May 19, 1994, to the Commonwealth Edison Company. This action is based on three violations involving apparent deliberate actions on the part of worker(s), and poor training, communications and work practices that resulted in a significant source of external radiation exposure. These deficiencies indicate that there has been a significant breakdown in the Radiation Protection Program and the failure of LaSalle Station management to establish and maintain a high level of respect for sound radiological safety practices and procedures at the facility. The resulting violation has been characterized as a Severity Level III problem, which has a base civil penalty of \$50,000. A civil penalty of \$225,000 has been proposed to emphasize the importance of establishing appropriate radiological safety values and culture at the LaSalle County Station, to foster worker respect for radiological hazards and conditions, and considering that the LaSalle County Station has had a poor history of radiological work practices, which has resulted in unnecessary exposure to its workers. Escalation of 50 percent was warranted for the factor of corrective actions, and escalation of 100 percent was applied for the factor of licensee performance. In addition, the staff proposes to exercise discretion and further escalate the civil penalty by an amount equal to two times the base civil penalty to ensure that the proposed civil penalty fully reflects the NRC's concern regarding the breakdown in the licensee's Radiation Protection Program.

It should be noted that the licensee has not been specifically informed of the enforcement action. The schedule of issuance and notification is:

Mailing of Notice May 19, 1994  
Telephone Notification of Licensee May 19, 1994

The State of Illinois will be notified.

The licensee has thirty days from the date of the Notice in which to respond. Following NRC evaluation of the response, the civil penalty may be remitted, mitigated, or imposed by Order.

Contact: V. Ordaz, OE, 504-3553 J. Lieberman, OE, 504-2741

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**PRELIMINARY INFORMATION - NOT FOR PUBLIC DISCLOSURE UNTIL VERIFICATION THAT LICENSEE HAS RECEIVED ACTION**

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