

NOTICE OF VIOLATION  
AND  
PROPOSED IMPOSITION OF CIVIL PENALTY

Commonwealth Edison Company  
Quad Cities Station, Unit 1

Docket No. 50-254  
License No. DPR-29  
EA 91-018

During an NRC inspection conducted on January 26 through February 5, 1991, violations of NRC requirements were identified. In accordance with the "General Statement of Policy and Procedure for NRC Enforcement Actions," 10 CFR Part 2, Appendix C (1990), the Nuclear Regulatory Commission proposes to impose a civil penalty pursuant to Section 234 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (Act), 42 U.S.C. 2282, and 10 CFR 2.205. The particular violation(s) and associated civil penalty are set forth below:

1. Technical Specifications 6.2.A.1 and 6.2.A.6 require adherence to detailed written procedures for normal operations and preventive and corrective maintenance activities which could have an effect on the safety of the facility.

- a. QEMP 600-1, "Electrical Maintenance of Safety Related and Non-Safety Related Motor Operated Valves," Section D.3 requires that permission be obtained from the Operating Department before moving a valve off of an open or closed seat.

Contrary to the above, on January 24, 1991, Electrical Maintenance personnel failed to obtain permission from the Operating Department prior to moving the shutdown cooling pump suction valve, 1-1001-43D, a motor operated valve, off the closed seat, while performing an electrical maintenance activity on the valve.

- b. QAP 300-1, "Operations Department Organization," Section C.10.c requires that the Nuclear Station Operator (NSO) shall initiate "holds" during plant evolutions that are required to ensure that the evolution does not threaten the stability of the unit, result in damage to equipment, or violate administrative controls. The NSO is also required to notify proper authorities regarding unusual conditions.

Contrary to the above, on January 24, 1991, the Shift 3 Unit 1 NSO failed to place a hold on the electrical maintenance testing of shutdown cooling pump suction valves and ensure that a reported out-of-sequence valve operating error did not threaten the stability of the unit. The NSO also failed to notify the proper authorities, shift supervision, of the reported valve operating error or the report of water in the reactor building sump in a timely manner.

- c. QAP 300-1, "Operations Department Organization," Section C.10.p requires that the NSO shall be alert and attentive to his panels at

all times. Attentive to panels means the control board indicators are monitored frequently enough to detect adverse trends before problem situations occur.

Contrary to the above, on January 24, 1991, the Shift 3 Unit 1 NSO failed to be attentive to the control board indicators after being informed of water accumulation in the reactor building sump. Specifically, the NSO failed to check reactor vessel level indication and RHR pressure prior to cycling the shutdown cooling isolation valve in an attempt to relieve a perceived high pressure in the RHR system.

- d. QAP 300-2, "Conduct of Shift Operations," Section C.14.i, requires that a briefing session shall be coordinated by the Operating Engineer or designee for evolutions which are complex and involve close coordination.

Contrary to the above, on January 24, 1991, the Operating Engineer or designee failed to hold a briefing session for the scheduled shutdown cooling system valve stroke testing. The evolution was complex and required close coordination in that it involved the partial lift of an out-of-service tagout and realignment of a portion of the RHR system by the Operations Department prior to performance of the post-maintenance valve stroke test by the Maintenance Department.

- e. QAP 300-2, "Conduct of Shift Operation," Section C.26.c requires that the Station Control Room Engineer (SCRE) shall have the responsibility of controlling control room activities to assure safe plant operation.

Contrary to the above, on January 24, 1991, the Shift 3 SCRE failed to control control room activities to assure safe plant operation by not maintaining cognizance of the status of the Unit 1 reactor. Specifically, the SCRE was unaware of the valve stroking evolution during the January 24, 1991 event, that the Shift 3 Unit 1 Nuclear Station Operator secured shutdown cooling, and that the Nuclear Station Operator operated the shutdown cooling suction isolation valve to relieve perceived high residual heat removal system discharge pressure.

2. 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix B, Criteria V, requires that activities affecting quality shall be prescribed by documented instructions, procedures, or drawings, of a type appropriate to the circumstances and shall be accomplished in accordance with these instructions, procedures, or drawings.

Contrary to the above, as of January 24, 1991, procedure QAP 300-14, "Equipment Out of Service," Revision 26, was not of a type appropriate to the circumstances for controlling the process for the temporary lift of out-of-service tagouts on fluid systems because it does not provide appropriate guidance for the preparation and verification of system alignments to ensure appropriate isolation boundaries. Specifically,

the procedure failed to ensure that all active out-of-service tagouts are reviewed to determine existing system configuration such as the position of vent and drain valves.

This is a Severity Level III problem (Supplement I).  
Cumulative Civil Penalty - \$112,500 (assessed equally among the 6 violations).

Pursuant to the provisions of 10 CFR 2.201, the Commonwealth Edison Company (Licensee) is hereby required to submit a written statement of explanation to the Office of Enforcement, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, within the date of this Notice of Violation and Proposed Imposition of Civil Penalty (Notice). This reply should be clearly marked as a "Reply to a Notice of Violation" and should include for each alleged violation: (1) admission or denial of the alleged violation, (2) the reasons for the violation if admitted, and if denied, the reasons why, (3) the corrective steps that have been taken and the results achieved, (4) the corrective steps that will be taken to avoid further violations, and (5) the date when full compliance will be achieved. If an adequate reply is not received within the time specified in this Notice, an order may be issued to show cause why the license should not be modified, suspended, or revoked or why such other actions as may be proper should not be taken. Consideration may be given to extending the response time for good cause shown. Under the authority of Section 182 of the Act, 42 U.S.C. 2232, this response shall be submitted under oath or affirmation.

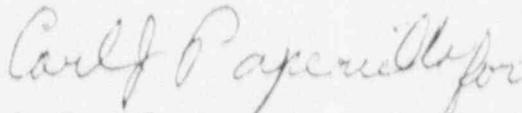
Within the same time as provided for the response required under 10 CFR 2.201, the Licensee may pay the civil penalty by letter addressed to the Director, Office of Enforcement, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, with a check, draft, money order, or electronic transfer payable to the Treasurer of the United States in the amount of the civil penalty proposed above, or the cumulative amount of the civil penalties if more than one civil penalty is proposed, or may protest imposition of the civil penalty in whole or in part, by a written answer addressed to the Director, Office of Enforcement, U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Should the Licensee fail to answer within the time specified, an order imposing the civil penalty will be issued. Should the Licensee elect to file an answer in accordance with 10 CFR 2.205 protesting the civil penalty, in whole or in part, such answer should be clearly marked as an "Answer to a Notice of Violation" and may: (1) deny the violations listed in this Notice in whole or in part, (2) demonstrate extenuating circumstances, (3) show error in this Notice, or (4) show other reasons why the penalty should not be imposed. In addition to protesting the civil penalty in whole or in part, such answer may request remission or mitigation of the penalty.

In requesting mitigation of the proposed penalty, the factors addressed in Section V.B of 10 CFR Part 2, Appendix C (1990), should be addressed. Any written answer in accordance with 10 CFR 2.205 should be set forth separately from the statement or explanation in reply pursuant to 10 CFR 2.201 but may incorporate parts of the 10 CFR 2.201 reply by specific reference (e.g., citing page and paragraph numbers) to avoid repetition. The attention of the Licensee is directed to the other provisions of 10 CFR 2.205, regarding the procedure for imposing a civil penalty.

Upon failure to pay any civil penalty due which subsequently has been determined in accordance with the applicable provisions of 10 CFR 2.205, this matter may be referred to the Attorney General, and the penalty, unless compromised, remitted, or mitigated, may be collected by civil action pursuant to Section 234c of the Act, 42 U.S.C. 2282c.

The response noted above (Reply to Notice of Violation, letter with payment of civil penalty, and Answer to a Notice of Violation) should be addressed to: Director, Office of Enforcement, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, ATTN: Document Control Desk, Washington, D.C. 20555 with a copy to the Regional Administrator, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Region III, 799 Roosevelt Road, Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137, and a copy to the NRC Resident Inspector at the Quad Cities facility.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



A. Bert Davis  
Regional Administrator

Dated at Glen Ellyn, Illinois  
this 27th day of March 1991