February 20, 1996

Mrs. Marianne Stephens
1307 Cleveland Avenue
Streator, IL 61364

Dear Mrs. Stephens:

I am responding to your recent letter to Chairman Jackson expressing your concern about the ongoing labor dispute between Commonwealth Edison Company and the International Brotherhood of Electric Workers. Although the terms of any contract between the utility and plant workers are beyond the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) regulatory jurisdiction, the NRC has the responsibility to ensure that nuclear power plants are operated safely.

To carry out that responsibility, the NRC established requirements for the training and qualification of operators who are at the controls of a nuclear power plant. Those operators are licensed by the NRC only after extensive training and experience, and after the individual has passed a thorough examination. Once licensed, the operators must maintain the license through ongoing training, control room experience, and further testing. During this labor dispute, the NRC will continue to ensure that Commonwealth Edison operates their nuclear plants in accordance with regulatory requirements pertaining to plant staffing and worker qualifications.

In addition to the specific regulatory requirements, NRC resident inspectors are assigned to each nuclear plant. The resident inspectors and other NRC personnel are reviewing Commonwealth Edison's planning and preparation for a possible strike. These plans include ensuring that the safety functions at each plant continue to be performed by qualified workers. If a strike occurs, additional inspectors will augment the resident inspector staffs, thus providing additional oversight of activities at each plant to ensure the plants meet NRC safety requirements.

I want to assure you that the Agency will not permit any plant, including La Salle Station, to operate if it does not meet NRC safety requirements.

Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,

original signed by A. Bill Beach/for

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PDR ADOCK 05000373
H PDR

H. J. Miller
Regional Administrator

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FROM: DUE: 02/28/96 EDO CONTROL: GT96039
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FINAL REPLY:

Marianne Stephens
Streator, IL

TO:

Chairman Jackson

FOR SIGNATURE OF : ** GRN ** CRC NO: 96-0138

Miller

DESC: ROUTING:

CONCERNS RE NUCLEAR PLANT SAFETY AS A RESULT OF A LABOR DISPUTE WITH COMMONWEALTH EDISON

Taylor
Milhoan
Thompson
Blaha
Russell, NRR

DATE: 02/14/96

ASSIGNED TO: CONTACT:

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PAPER NUMBER: CRC-96-0138 LOGGING DATE: Feb 13 96

ACTION OFFICE: EDO

AUTHOR: MARIANNE STEPHENS
AFFILIATION: ILLINOIS

ADDRESSEE: CHAIRMAN JACKSON

LETTER DATE: Feb 7 96 FILE CODE: IDR-5 LASALLE

SUBJECT: COMMONWEALTH EDISON--LASALLE

ACTION: Direct Reply

DISTRIBUTION:

SPECIAL HANDLING: SECY TO ACK

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