

July 17, 1997

EA 97-289

Mr. W. T. Subalusky, Jr.
Site Vice President
LaSalle County Station
Commonwealth Edison Company
2601 North 21st Road
Marseilles, IL 61341

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT 50-373/97008(DRS); 50-374/97008(DRS),
NOTICE OF VIOLATION, AND EXERCISE OF ENFORCEMENT DISCRETION

Dear Mr. Subalusky:

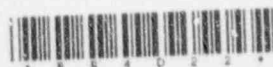
On June 20, 1997, the NRC completed an inspection at your LaSalle facility. The enclosed report presents the results of that inspection.

Based on the results of this inspection, two examples of an apparent violation of NRC requirements were identified and considered for escalated enforcement action in accordance with the "General Statement of Policy and Procedures for NRC Enforcement Actions" (Enforcement Policy), NUREG-1600. The violation is of concern because although waterhammer events in the residual heat removal service water (RHRSW) system had been identified prior to 1990, your staff failed to account for design lake level when the potential effects of a worst case waterhammer event were considered. As a result, your staff failed to recognize that division 2 of the RHRSW system was inoperable from initial plant startup. In addition, division 1 of the RHRSW system was demonstrated operable only after the completion of a detailed evaluation.

Based on the discussions of the waterhammer issue which my staff conducted with LaSalle County Station personnel, we concluded that a pre-decisional enforcement conference was not necessary to enable the NRC to make an enforcement decision. In a discussion between Mr. Melvyn N. Leach, Chief, Operator Licensing Branch, and yourself on June 24, 1997, you declined the opportunity for a pre-decisional enforcement conference.

Also, because 1) significant NRC enforcement action was recently taken against your LaSalle County Station for a service water sealant intrusion event for which your corrective actions encompass the root causes for the violation under consideration, 2) you voluntarily entered an extended shutdown on both units to address wide ranging performance problems which encompass the causes for the current violation, and 3) a Confirmatory Action Letter was issued which detailed the performance improvements you have taken or will take prior to restarting LaSalle County Station, in accordance with Section VII.B.6, "Violations Involving Special Circumstances," of the "General Statement of Policy and Procedures for NRC Enforcement Actions" (Enforcement Policy), NUREG-1600, a Notice of Violation is not being issued for this apparent violation.

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In addition, based on the results of this inspection, the NRC has determined that an additional violation of NRC requirements occurred. This violation is cited in the enclosed Notice of Violation and the circumstances surrounding the violation are described in detail in the enclosed inspection report. The violation is of concern because proper use and approval of overtime is important to prevent injury and to assure nuclear safety.

The inspection showed that steps have been taken to correct the identified violation to prevent recurrence. Consequently, no reply to the violation is required and we have no further questions regarding this matter.

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.

We will gladly discuss any questions you have concerning this inspection.

Sincerely,

/s/ J. M. Jacobson (for)

Melvyn Leach, Chief
Operator Licensing Branch

Docket Nos. 50-373; 50-374
License Nos. NPF-11; NPF-18

- Enclosures: 1. Notice of Violation
- 2. Inspection Report 50-373/374/97008(DRS)

See Attached Distribution

DOCUMENT NAME: G:\DRS\LAS97008.DRS

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DATE	07/10/97	07/11/97	07/11/97	07/15/97	07/17/97

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