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Docket No. 50-456  
License No. NPF-72  
EA 88-91

Commonwealth Edison Company  
ATTN: Mr. James J. O'Connor  
President  
Post Office Box 767  
Chicago, Illinois 60690-0767

Gentlemen:

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF VIOLATION AND PROPOSED IMPOSITION OF CIVIL PENALTY  
(NRC INSPECTION REPORT NO. 50-456/88007(DRSS))

This refers to the NRC inspection conducted during the period March 1-17, 1988, of activities authorized by NRC Operating License No. NPF-72, at the Braidwood Station, Unit 1. The inspection focused on problems associated with degraded control room ventilation systems and identified violations of NRC regulatory requirements. The details are presented in the subject inspection report which was sent to you by letter dated March 25, 1988. An enforcement conference was held on March 28, 1988, with Mr. T. J. Maiman and other members of your staff during which the violations, the causes, and your corrective actions were discussed. The enforcement conference was documented in Meeting Report No. 50-456/88012 which was sent to you by letter dated April 4, 1988.

The violations represent a failure to check the adequacy of a design change, failure to adequately demonstrate system operability, and failure to modify system components in accordance with instructions or drawings. These violations resulted in a delay in identifying an initial design error. As a result of this delay, the plant operated with the Control Room Ventilation Systems in a degraded condition from May 29, 1987 until November 21, 1987. Subsequent to the design error, which improperly altered the trip function of differential pressure switches, neither the independent design change review nor the pre-service testing program detected the error before the systems were put into service. In addition, the failure to adjust the setpoints of the differential pressure switches masked the ability of routine surveillance testing to identify the design error. As discussed in the inspection report, potential violations of 10 CFR 50.59 and the applicable Technical Specifications were under consideration, but after further review it was concluded that any such violations were the direct results of the violations contained in the enclosed Notice.

We have considered your arguments concerning the ability of the Control Room Ventilation System to function without the proper preheating of makeup air. However, our concerns with the violations are based not only on the degraded

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system but also, and more importantly, on the underlying design control and testing issues. These violations appear to be symptomatic of deficiencies that were identified during your last SALP period (Inspection Reports No. 50-456/88001(DRP); No. 50-457/88001(DRP)) and which resulted in rating declines from Category 1 to Category 2 in the functional areas of Quality Programs and Administrative Controls Affecting Quality and of Preoperational and Startup Testing.

To emphasize the need for improving implementation of procedures for design changes to safety systems, I have been authorized, after consultation with the Director, Office of Enforcement, and the Deputy Executive Director for Regional Operations, to issue the enclosed Notice of Violation and Proposed Imposition of Civil Penalty in the amount of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) for the violations described in the enclosed Notice. In accordance with the "General Statement of Policy and Procedure for NRC Enforcement Actions," 10 CFR, Part 2, Appendix C (1988) (Enforcement Policy), the violations described in the enclosed Notice have been categorized at a Severity Level III. The escalation and mitigation factors in the Enforcement Policy were considered, and no adjustment has been deemed appropriate. Although you did make a timely report after the problem was identified, the plant operated for more than five months with the Control Room Ventilation Systems in a degraded condition.

You are required to respond to this letter and should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice when preparing your response. In your response, you should document the specific actions taken and any additional actions you plan to prevent recurrence. After reviewing your response to this Notice, including your proposed corrective actions and the results of future inspections, the NRC will determine whether further NRC enforcement action is necessary to ensure compliance with NRC regulatory requirements.

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 its enclosure will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

The responses directed by this letter and the enclosed Notice are not subject to the clearance procedures of the Office of Management and Budget as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, Pub. L. No. 96-511.

Sincerely,  
Original signed by  
A. Bert Davis

A. Bert Davis  
Regional Administrator

Enclosures:

1. Notice of Violation and Proposed Imposition of Civil Penalty
2. Inspection Report No. 50-456/88007(DRSS)
3. Meeting Report No. 50-456/88012(DRSS)

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cc w/enclosure:

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