



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION III
801 WARRENVILLE ROAD
LISLE, ILLINOIS 60532-4351

November 5, 1998

Mr. Oliver D. Kingsley
President, Nuclear Generation Group
Commonwealth Edison Company
ATTN: Regulatory Services
Executive Towers West III
1400 Opus Place, Suite 500
Downers Grove, IL 60515

SUBJECT: QUAD CITIES INSPECTION REPORT 50-254/98017(DRP);
50-265/98017(DRP)

Dear Mr. Kingsley:

This refers to the inspection conducted September 2 through October 14, 1998, at the Quad Cities Nuclear Power Station. The purpose of the inspection was to determine whether activities authorized by the license were conducted safely and in accordance with NRC requirements. The NRC conducted routine resident inspections in this period. Based on the inspectors' findings, overall performance at the Quad Cities station was safe. At the conclusion of the inspection, the findings were discussed with your staff. The inspectors found significant room for improvement in maintenance and out-of-service activities.

During the period, equipment problems and several maintenance and out-of-service activity errors had a significant impact on plant operations. Errors on Unit 1 led to the third reactor trip in about 3 months. Problems stemming from preventive maintenance deficiencies led to Unit 2 reactor water level oscillations which approached the predetermined manual trip point. Problems with the 2B reactor recirculation pump seal required a maintenance outage and the third replacement of the seal since shutdown from the last operating cycle in February 1997.

Operators performed well at the controls during a number of operational transients. However, operator lack of sensitivity to equipment problems and poor performance in taking a flow transmitter out-of-service were considered weaknesses.

No cited violations of NRC requirements were identified.

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O. Kingsley

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In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and the enclosure will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Steven A. Reynolds, Deputy Director
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket Nos.: 50-254; 50-265
License Nos.: DPR-29; DPR-30

Enclosure: Inspection Report 50-254/98017(DRP);
50-265/98017(DRP)

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