

OFFICE OF ENFORCEMENT  
NOTIFICATION OF SIGNIFICANT ENFORCEMENT ACTION

Licensee: Commonwealth Edison Company (ComEd) (EAs 98-175 and 98-231)  
Quad Cities Station  
Docket Nos. 50-254; 50-265.

Subject: PROPOSED IMPOSITION OF CIVIL PENALTIES - \$143,000

This is to inform the Commission that the NRC will issue a Notice of Violation and Proposed Imposition of Civil Penalties for \$143,000 on or about August 14, 1998 to ComEd. This action is based on one Severity Level II problem and one Severity Level III violation. The Severity Level II problem involved significant inadequacies in ComEd's capability to shut down the Quad Cities facility and maintain the units in a safe shutdown condition following a postulated design basis fire. The Severity Level III violation involved ComEd's failure to perform a written safety evaluation to determine if an unreviewed safety question (USQ) would exist if a change were made to the safe shutdown procedures permitting the use of the station blackout diesel generator instead of the emergency diesel generators. The licensee made this change and the NRC staff concluded that a USQ had been created. These violations represent a significant safety concern because they represented a failure to ensure safe shutdown capability and had the potential to impact public health and safety.

Because this was not the first escalated enforcement action within 2 years, the staff considered whether credit was warranted for identification and corrective action. For the Severity Level II problem, identification credit was warranted because the Quad Cities engineering staff identified all of the technical concerns regarding the inadequacies in the Quad Cities alternative shutdown capabilities. However, corrective action credit was not warranted due to the extensive NRC involvement required to focus ComEd resources to obtain comprehensive corrective actions, resulting in a civil penalty of \$88,000. For the Severity Level III violation identification credit was not warranted because the NRC identified the need to perform a safety evaluation to justify the use of the station blackout diesel generators. However, corrective action credit was warranted. These corrective actions included: (1) a defined limited population of safety evaluation preparers and reviewers, (2) revised station procedure with additional qualification requirements, (3) training to engineering and plant operations review committee, and (4) revising the procedure for conduct of safety evaluations to include guidance on compensatory measures. Based on the denial of identification credit, the civil penalty for the Severity Level III violation is \$55,000, for a total of \$143,000.

The State of Illinois will be notified. It should be noted that the licensee has not been specifically informed of the enforcement action. The schedule of issuance and notification is:

Mailing of Notice August 14, 1998  
Telephone Notification of Licensee August 14, 1998

The licensee has thirty days from the date of the Notice in which to respond. Following NRC evaluation of the response, the civil penalty may be remitted, mitigated, or imposed by Order.

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PRELIMINARY INFORMATION - NOT FOR PUBLIC DISCLOSURE UNTIL

9811170320 980811 NOTIFICATION THAT LICENSEE HAS RECEIVED ACTION

PDR I&E  
EN-98-057 PDR