



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

September 2, 1999

Vanessa Quinn, Acting Chief
Radiological Emergency Preparedness Branch
Chemical and Radiological Preparedness Division
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street, S.W.
Washington D.C. 20472

**SUBJECT: EXEMPTION OF ZION NUCLEAR POWER STATION FROM OFFSITE
EMERGENCY PLANNING REQUIREMENTS**

Dear Ms. Quinn:

This is to notify you that on August 31, 1999, the NRC granted an exemption to Commonwealth Edison Company (ComEd, or the licensee) from certain sections of 10 CFR 50 concerning emergency response planning, thereby allowing the licensee to discontinue offsite emergency planning activities and reduce the scope of its onsite planning at the Zion Nuclear Power Station (Zion), Unit Nos. 1, and 2. A copy of the exemption is enclosed. The NRC has also approved the Zion Defueled Station Emergency Plan (DSEP) which reflects the shutdown and defueled condition of the plant.

The facility consists of two pressurized-water reactors located at the ComEd site on the shore of Lake Michigan about 40 miles north of Chicago, Illinois, in the extreme eastern portion of the city of Zion, Illinois (Lake County). The facility is permanently shut down and defueled, and the licensee is no longer authorized to operate or place fuel in the reactor.

The requirements found in 10 CFR 50.54(q) specify that a licensee authorized to possess and operate a nuclear power reactor shall follow and maintain in effect emergency plans which meet the standards in 10 CFR 50.47(b) and the requirements in Appendix E to 10 CFR 50. With the enclosed exemption the NRC has granted the licensee exemption from those sections of 10 CFR 50.47(b) and Appendix E that pertain to offsite radiological emergency planning that were previously applicable in accordance with 10 CFR 50.54(q).

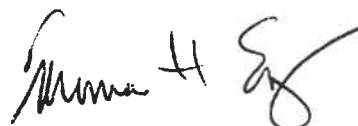
In light of the exemption granted to the licensee, the NRC no longer requires FEMA to monitor, review, or report on offsite radiological emergency planning and preparedness activities at Zion. Emergency planning and preparedness can be limited to onsite activities, simple notification to offsite authorities, and training for offsite personnel who may need to respond onsite (e.g., fire, ambulance, and law enforcement personnel).

Vanessa Quinn

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Please notify the State and local governments that the offsite emergency plans and preparedness will no longer be required for Zion. Should you need more information on this matter please contact Mr. Daniel M. Bars of my staff at 301-415-2922.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas H. Essig". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Thomas" being the most prominent.

Thomas H. Essig, Chief
Emergency Preparedness
and Health Physics Section
Operator Licensing, Human Performance,
and Plant Support Branch
Division of Inspection Program Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-295, 50-304

Enclosure: As stated