



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

REGION III
801 WARRENVILLE ROAD
LISLE, ILLINOIS 60532-4351

December 29, 1999

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: LASALLE INSPECTION REPORT 50-373/99022(DRP); 50-374/99022(DRP)

Dear Mr. Kingsley:

This refers to the inspection conducted October 29 through December 17, 1999, at the LaSalle 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. At the conclusion of the inspection, the findings were discussed with those members of your staff identified in the enclosed report.

Overall, we observed good operator response to events such as the Unit 2 automatic shutdown on November 16, and good command and control of pre-planned evolutions such as the Unit 2 startup on November 19 and the Unit 1 startup on November 22. However, the implementation of operations standards during these non-routine evolutions, as well as during routine operations, was weak at times. In particular, the inspectors identified problems regarding procedure adherence, log keeping, and documentation of surveillance testing results.

In addition, numerous human performance events which were primarily due to a lack of attention-to-detail, a failure to self-check, and a failure to perform adequate second and third verifications occurred during the inspection period. These events included four fuel handling errors, three examples where incorrect equipment was removed for maintenance, and one instance in which valves were not properly positioned during the restoration from an out-of-service. Although the individual errors were of low risk significance, the number of errors observed could be a potential precursor to an event of more than minor risk significance.

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Based on the results of this inspection, the NRC has determined that two violations of NRC requirements occurred. These violations are being treated as Non-Cited Violations (NCVs), consistent with Section VII.B.1.a of the Enforcement Policy. The NCVs are described in the subject inspection report. If you contest the violations or severity level of the NCVs, you should provide a response within 30 days of the date of this inspection report, with the basis for your denial, to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, ATTN: Document Control Desk, Washington DC 20555-001, with copies to the Regional Administrator, Region III, and the Director, Office of Enforcement, United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington DC 20555-001.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter, its enclosure, and your response, if you choose to provide one, will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

Sincerely,

Melvyn Leach, Chief
Reactor Projects Branch 2

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

Enclosure: Inspection Report 50-373/99022(DRP);
50-374/99022(DRP)

cc w/encl: D. Helwig, Senior Vice President, Nuclear Services
C. Crane, Senior Vice President, Nuclear Operations
H. Stanley, Vice President, Nuclear Operations
R. Krich, Vice President, Regulatory Services
DCD - Licensing
J. Benjamin, Site Vice President
J. Meister, Station Manager
F. Spangenberg, Regulatory Assurance Supervisor
M. Aguilar, Assistant Attorney General
State Liaison Officer
Chairman, Illinois Commerce Commission

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