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Region III Office of Public Affairs
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NRC FINDS PERFORMANCE 'ACCEPTABLE'
AT QUAD CITIES NUCLEAR POWER STATION IN LATEST REVIEW

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has found that safety performance remains acceptable in the NRC's latest plant performance review at the Quad Cities nuclear power plant, located in Cordova, Illinois.

The review covers April 1 of last year through January 31.

Geoffrey Grant, NRC Region III Division Director, in a letter to Commonwealth Edison Company, said, "Overall, performance at Quad Cities was acceptable. Reactor operations, following restart of both units in May 1998, were conducted well, with an adequate safety focus. Subsequently, both units incurred scrams within 10 hours of each other on June 27 and 28, 1998. The related Unit restarts and all subsequent Unit startups were performed well with good communications and attention to operator activities."

"Response to plant transients resulting from equipment problems was also good. Areas of weakness continued to be configuration control problems, equipment failures, and out-of-service problems," Mr. Grant continued. "A refueling outage for Unit 1 was completed December 5, 1998, in 28 days. This was the shortest refueling outage in ComEd history, and subsequent good operating performance by Unit 1 indicates the outage work was performed successfully."

The text of the plant performance review letter is available from the NRC Region III Office of Public Affairs and on the NRC web site at: <http://www.nrc.gov/OPA/ppr>.

NRC reviews safety performance twice a year at every licensed nuclear power plant in the nation. These reviews give the agency staff an integrated assessment of plant performance and provide a basis for planning inspection activities.

Plant performance reviews are an interim measure NRC is utilizing to monitor nuclear power plant safety. The agency began using it for this purpose after suspending the Systematic Assessment of License Performance (SALP) process until a new assessment program is developed. Previously, SALP reports were issued every 12 to 24 months.

The new reactor oversight and assessment program being developed will provide quarterly performance reports, based on a number of performance indicators and on inspection findings. This program will be tested at eight sites beginning in June and will be extended to all plants next January. A full description of the new program is available on the NRC web site at: <http://www.nrc.gov/OPA/primer.htm>.

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