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NRC STAFF RATES QUAD CITIES "GOOD" IN OPERATIONS AND PLANT
SUPPORT AND "ACCEPTABLE" IN MAINTENANCE AND ENGINEERING

The Quad Cities Nuclear Power Station, operated by Commonwealth Edison Company, has received performance ratings of "good" in operations and plant support and "acceptable" in maintenance and engineering in the Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff's latest Systematic Assessment of Licensee Performance (SALP) report for the facility. The plant is located in Cordova, Illinois.

The assessment covers the period from October 27, 1996, through December 20 of last year.

The NRC staff and Commonwealth Edison officials will discuss the evaluation at a meeting that will be scheduled at a future date. The meeting will be open for public observation.

NRC SALP reports rate utilities in four functional areas -- plant operations, maintenance, engineering, and plant support -- and assign ratings of Category 1, 2, or 3 depending on whether their performance in those areas is superior, good or acceptable. The report on Quad Cities gives the plant a "Category 2" rating -- indicating good performance -- in operations and plant support and a "Category 3" rating -- indicating acceptable performance -- in maintenance and engineering.

NRC Regional Administrator A. Bill Beach, in a letter to the utility, noted that while the ratings were the same as the previous SALP report, the "conduct of nuclear activities in connection with the Quad Cities facility declined from the previous assessment period."

He added: "Improvement was noted in some areas; however, substantial problems were discovered involving implementation of the maintenance rule, procedures and analyses to achieve safe shutdown in the event of a fire, and the conduct of hydrostatic testing of the reactor vessel."

"Aspects of each of these problems extended into each of the SALP functional areas," Mr. Beach continued. "Further, insufficient oversight and support from both the Commonwealth Edison Corporate Engineering and Quality and Safety Assurance organizations contributed to the problems."

He told the utility, "At the SALP meeting you should be prepared to discuss our assessments and your plans to improve performance in the areas of Maintenance and Engineering. Additionally, you are requested to respond in writing, within 30 days after the meeting, specifically addressing corrective actions planned to improve performance in these areas."

SALP Report Results:

<u>Functional Area</u>	<u>Current Period</u>	<u>Previous Period</u>
Operations	2	2
Maintenance	3	3
Engineering	3	3
Plant Support	2	2

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Note: SALP reports are available for review on the NRC's internet web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/OPA>.