ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD February 14, 1972

In the Matter of the Application) of COMMONWEALTH EDISON COMPANY) for a Permit for Dresden Unit 3) PCB 70-21 at Dresden Nuclear Power Station)

Mr. William E. Eaken appeared for the Illinois Pollution Control Board

Messrs. Arthur C. Gehr and John Rowe appeared for Commonwealth Edison Company

Messrs. Lawrence D. Spears and Alan Sugarman appeared for the Environmental Law Society

Opinion of the Board (by Mr. R.J. Kissel):

On November 23, 1971, the Board revised the Permit previously granted to Edison to operate Dresden Unit 3. One of the provisions of the revised Permit required that Edison complete the installation of a catalytic recombiner and eight charcoal beds, as outlined in the record of the proceedings, by April 1, 1973. See Paragraph 4(a) of the revised Permit, dated November 23, 1971. On February 2, 1972 Edison filed a motion to clarify the November 23 order by changing the date on which the catalytic recombiner and eight charcoal beds had to be completed to June 1, 1973. Edison points out that the basis of the Board's order on November 23 was the Company's advanced anticipated completion date, which was testified to in the record as being June 1, 1973. See the testimony of Mr. Hoveke, page 186, transcript of October 19, 1971.

While we would like Edison to expedite the completion of the control equipment, we must agree with them that the testimony in the record supports the position taken in their motion to clarify the Board's order. The insertion of the April 1, 1973 date was merely a clerical error in drafting of the order, and therefore, we will modify the order by deleting the April 1 date in Paragraph 4(a) and inserting the June 1 date.

I, Christan L. Moffett, Clerk of the Pollution Control Board, certify that the Board adopted the above Opinion this 4 day of February, 1972, by a vote of 4-l

Mr. Dumelle dissents.

Christan J. Moffett

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PCB 70-21

Dissenting Opinion of Mr. Dumelle

My dissent on the modification of the permit is based on the ground that it is really both moot and premature.

It is moot because the transmittal letter spoke of oral arguments before the Appellate Court on February 8 and that date was past when this was granted. It is premature because it logically follows after a determination by this Board on whether or not to hear from Dr. Edward Radford on the General Electric nuclear fuel reprocessing plant at Morris, Illinois. Dr. Radford has alleged people dosages of 680 mr per year now being inflicted upon those residents within one mile of the three Dresden reactors. If he is even partially correct in his radiation estimates then this Board should immediately order a speedup of the off-gas system construction not from the 27 months now lengthened to 30 months) of the permit but to a much shorter period. And a power reduction, in my view, is also called for, if Dr. Radford is right, especially at the ancient Dresden I plant with its short stack and consequently more potent radiation effects.

I would point out that my Board-approved amendment (December 9, 1971) to the Quad-Cities permit changed the date for completion of the off-gas system there to conform to the 27-month period now scrapped for Dresden. See permit (p. 12, November 15, 1971 "September 1, 1973" compared to opinion of same date, p. 2 "December 1973" and minutes of motions made at November 15, 1971 Board meeting.) Will the Board now change the completion dates for the sister units at Quad-Cities to give them a 30 month period also? I hope not.

These off-gas treatment systems were available and in use in Germany some five years before the Board's December 1970 Dresden hearings. Had Edison been following the AEC stricture on radiation dosages of "as low as practicable" these treatment systems would have been designed, ordered constructed and on-line today.

The people around Dresden and around Quad-Cities (if it operates before off-gas treatment is on-line) are paying or may pay the price for Edison's delay.

The newspaper story today (February 24, 1972) telling of Governor Richard B. Ogilvie's February 14 (the date of this action) request to the Illinois Commerce Commission to investigate the "incidents" at the Dresden reactors is recognition of the great dangers to the public which may result from improper design or operation of Dresden. The off-gas treatment system adds a measure of safety to these nuclear plants and ought to be built and installed just as fast as humanly possible.

Jacob D. Dumelle Board Member

I, Christan L. Moffett, Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, hereby certify the above Dissenting Opinion was submitted on the 24th day of February, 1972.

Christan L. Moffett, Clerk

Illinois Pollution Control Board

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