

No. 91-86  
Tel. 301/415-8200

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
(Wednesday, July 24, 1991)

## NRC STAFF PROPOSES \$50,000 CIVIL PENALTY AGAINST CP&L AT HARRIS NUCLEAR POWER PLANT IN NORTH CAROLINA

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has proposed a \$50,000 civil penalty against Carolina Power & Light Company for alleged violations of NRC requirements at the Shearon Harris nuclear power plant located near Raleigh, North Carolina.

The NRC sent a Notice of Violation to the company dated July 23, 1991, which said the fine was being proposed because plant personnel failed to maintain two operable reactor trip system instrumentation channels from May 18, 1991, until June 3, 1991, and did not ensure that operations personnel were properly notified prior to placement or removal of electrical jumpers during testing of the system.

The reactor protection system functions to ensure that the reactor is automatically shut down if instrumentation indicates certain unsafe conditions. With one channel inoperable, the system would not have been able to perform its intended safety function if a single failure had occurred involving the other channel. The NRC said company maintenance personnel had used electrical jumpers and other equipment to conduct tests. This apparently caused the undetected failure of a transistor which caused the problem.

The company has 30 days from receipt of the Notice of Violation to either pay the fine or to protest it.

#