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NRC STAFF PROPOSES \$100,000 FINE AGAINST CP&L
FOR ALLEGED VIOLATION OF NRC REQUIREMENTS AT BRUNSWICK

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has proposed a \$100,000 civil penalty against Carolina Power and Light Company for alleged violation of NRC requirements at the Brunswick nuclear power plant located near Southport, North Carolina, about 30 miles south of Wilmington.

The NRC said the penalty is being proposed because of an event at the plant on January 3, 1992, when plant maintenance personnel used an inadequate procedure during cleaning activities on a Unit 2 emergency diesel generator which resulted in the generator's subsequent failure to start during a test. The NRC said plant personnel used a degreasing solvent with water to spray the side of an emergency diesel generator. The procedure required that fuel control racks be lubricated after cleaning but had no signoff step. Maintenance personnel decided that lubrication could wait until January 6. As a result, the cleaning solvent dried, forming a crystalline adhesive bond which disabled the fuel control racks, causing them to bind. On January 6, a test was performed on the Unit 2 main turbine generator and the emergency diesel generator failed to start.

In this case, the NRC said that three other emergency diesel generators did start and there was no loss of offsite power.

In a letter to the company, the NRC said the significance of the violation and the basis of the agency's concern was not with the event itself but with the apparent continuation of significant problems related to work control and the apparent inability of CP&L management to properly and consistently control work on components and systems at Brunswick which are important to safety. In the letter, the NRC said this is the sixth enforcement action proposed against the plant since August 30, 1990, with a total of \$425,000 in proposed civil penalties.

The base civil penalty for this violation is \$50,000 but the NRC said it was raised to \$100,000 because of the company's past performance which reflects a history of continuing problems related to work control.

The company has 30 days in which to either pay the penalty or to protest it, in whole or in part.

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