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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NRC STAFF PROPOSES \$75,000 CIVIL PENALTY AGAINST DUKE POWER
FOR ALLEGED VIOLATION OF NRC REQUIREMENTS AT CATAWBA

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has proposed a \$75,000 civil penalty against Duke Power Company for alleged violation of NRC requirements at the Catawba nuclear power plant, located near Rock Hill, South Carolina.

In a Notice of Violation dated April 30, 1993, NRC officials informed Duke Power Company that the civil penalty was being proposed because of a report the NRC received that the plant staff had discovered that the Nuclear Service Water (RN) system had been degraded for seven years and inoperable for six months.

The NRC said both loops of the Nuclear Service Water system were inoperable from August 15, 1992, through February 25, 1993, because of improper switch settings on pump discharge valve motors. Because of the improper switch settings, three of four pump discharge valves would not have been able to open following restoration of emergency power following a loss of offsite power event.

NRC officials said the violation was caused by the plant staff's failure to take comprehensive corrective action following similar valve failures which occurred between November, 1985, and December, 1989.

The Nuclear Service Water system at Catawba would provide cooling water for such components as the emergency diesel generators and the containment spray system during abnormal conditions.

The NRC said corrective actions have been taken and additional studies are under way. However, the agency said the base civil penalty of \$50,000 was increased in this case because the company had prior opportunity to correct the situation and because of the length of time it existed.

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

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