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NRC STAFF PROPOSES TO FINE TVA \$62,500 FOR ALLEGED VIOLATIONS
OF NRC REQUIREMENTS AT SEQUOYAH NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has proposed a \$62,500 civil penalty against the Sequoyah nuclear power plant, operated by the Tennessee Valley Authority, for alleged violation of NRC safety requirements.

The fine is being proposed after TVA personnel identified the potential inoperability of a safety injection pump on Unit 1 and reported it to the NRC. The NRC's Senior Resident Inspector looked into the circumstances associated with the event.

The NRC said one of two safety injection pumps on Unit 1 was potentially inoperable from July 31, 1992, until August 10, 1992, because a manual trip (shutoff) button was stuck in the trip position. A TVA operator initiated actions to determine the cause and found that a cover plate on the breaker was at fault. The operator loosened the cover plate and released the manual trip button, returning the pump to operable status.

The Sequoyah technical specifications allow operations to continue with an emergency core cooling system (ECCS) subsystem out of service for up to 72 hours. Since the subsystem including the pump was potentially out for ten days, the NRC staff has proposed a civil penalty because an important safety-related component was unable to perform its safety function.

TVA has 30 days from receipt of the Notice of Violation to either pay the civil penalty or to protest it.

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