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NRC STAFF PROPOSES \$125,000 CIVIL PENALTY FOR ALLEGED
VIOLATIONS OF NRC REQUIREMENTS AT SURRY POWER STATION

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has proposed a \$125,000 civil penalty against Virginia Electric and Power Company for alleged violation of NRC requirements at the Surry Power Station located near Newport News, Virginia.

NRC officials said there were two problems, identified during an NRC inspection review, involving full operability of certain safety systems. The first problem involved Units 1 and 2 operating with the common emergency diesel generator inoperable from May 9, 1991, to August 2, 1991. The second problem involved the operation of the two units since 1980 while routinely aligned in a specific electrical configuration that resulted in an inoperable automatic start feature for the high head safety injection pumps.

The NRC said the first problem was caused by a breakdown in the management oversight and control functions related to maintenance activities. The second problem indicates a weakness in the area of engineering review associated with plant modifications. An additional concern was several missed opportunities which resulted in a delay in identifying the significance of the configuration problem.

To emphasize the importance of ensuring that safety systems are fully operable and capable of performing their intended safety function following maintenance and modification, the NRC staff is proposing a fine of \$75,000 for the first problem and \$50,000 for the second problem for a total of \$125,000. The fine for the first problem is \$25,000 above the base civil penalty for this type of violation. This reflects an increase of 50 percent because the immediate corrective action taken for the problem was not comprehensive.

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

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