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Tel. 301/504-2240

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NRC STAFF PROPOSES \$50,000 CIVIL PENALTY
AGAINST BRUNSWICK NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has proposed a \$50,000 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.

The NRC said the proposed action was being taken because of an event at the plant on September 22, 1992, in which a container holding radioactive materials was cut during cleanup operations in the area of the plant's Unit 2 spent fuel pool, resulting in inadvertent contamination of the refueling floor and the discovery that one individual in the area had sustained potential internal contamination.

NRC officials said the company failed to either label the radioactive material or provide a readily available written record identifying its location in the spent fuel pool. They said plant personnel also failed to perform an adequate survey to evaluate the extent of potential radioactive hazards prior to the cutting of the source holder.

NRC inspectors did credit the company's health physics technicians (radiation specialists) for their concern and initiative shown which led to identification of the problem. The agency said the "inquisitive attitudes" of the CP&L specialists reduced the potential for additional radiation exposures.

The company has 30 days from receipt of the Notice of Violation to either pay the civil penalty or to protest it, in whole or in part.

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