

No. 95-114
Tel. 301-415-8200
Internet:OPA@NRC.GOV

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NRC STAFF RESCINDS PROPOSED \$50,000 FINE AGAINST NORTHERN STATES
POWER CO.

IN CASE OF ALLEGED EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has rescinded a proposed \$50,000 fine against Northern States Power Company in a case of alleged employment discrimination involving the discharge of a security guard by a security contractor at the Prairie Island Nuclear Power Station. The plant is located near Red Wing, Minnesota.

The fine, proposed in January 1994, was based on the findings of a Department of Labor Administrative Law Judge after a hearing on the alleged employment discrimination.

The security guard, an employee of Burns International Security Service, Inc., was discharged in September 1992. The employee filed a complaint with the Department of Labor, alleging that she had been improperly terminated because she raised questions about certain security practices at Prairie Island.

On May 24 the Secretary of Labor overruled the Administrative Law Judge and dismissed the case, ruling that the security contractor had sufficient reason to discharge the individual and that no discrimination had occurred.

NRC regulations and federal statutes prohibit the discrimination against an employee for questioning security and safety practices at facilities licensed by the NRC. The NRC holds the utility licensed to operate the plant responsible for the actions of its contractors.

The payment of the proposed fine had been held in abeyance, pending the final decision by the Secretary of Labor.

In addition to rescinding the proposed fine against Northern States Power Co., the NRC staff has withdrawn a Notice of Violation issued against Burns International Security Service.