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NRC STAFF PROPOSES \$100,000 FINE AGAINST CLEVELAND ELECTRIC
ILLUMINATING CO. FOR VIOLATIONS AT PERRY NUCLEAR PLANT

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has proposed a \$100,000 fine against Cleveland Electric Illuminating Co. for inadequacies in the emergency operating procedures for the Perry nuclear power station. The violations were identified during a special NRC inspection in August 1991.

The inspection focussed on new and revised emergency operating procedures which are intended to respond to accidents and other abnormal conditions at the Perry plant. The NRC inspectors determined that two of the procedures reviewed would not have achieved their desired results and also identified other situations for which no emergency procedures had been developed.

The emergency operating procedure program was instituted to provide reactor operators with procedures to respond to specific conditions that might be present during very unlikely accidents. These procedures often involve using safety equipment and systems in ways differing from their normal functions in order to better respond to certain accident conditions.

The NRC cited the utility for three violations: (1) failing to adequately report and verify the procedures before they were issued; (2) issuing two procedures which would not have performed their intended functions; and (3) failing to develop procedures for responding to certain other unlikely accident conditions.

In notifying Cleveland Electric Illuminating Co. of the proposed fine, NRC Regional Administrator A. Bert Davis stated: "It appears that a lack of effective management control and oversight of the Emergency Operating procedure program was the major factor contributing to the violations, as evidenced by the inattention to program requirements (verification and validation)...and the limited application of resources in the emergency operating procedure program."

Once the procedure inadequacies were identified by the NRC, the utility promptly corrected the problems and reviewed all other emergency operating procedures to assure that similar inadequacies were not present in these procedures.

The utility has until December 2, 1991, to pay the fine or to protest it. If the fine is protested and subsequently imposed by the NRC staff, the utility may request a hearing.

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