

No. 94-47  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
(Thursday, March 17, 1994)

**NRC STAFF PROPOSES \$75,000 CIVIL PENALTY AGAINST DUKE POWER  
FOR ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF NRC NUCLEAR SECURITY REQUIREMENTS**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has proposed a \$75,000 civil penalty against Duke Power Company of Charlotte, North Carolina, for alleged failures to protect safeguards information related to the company's Catawba and McGuire nuclear power plants near Charlotte and the Oconee nuclear power plant near Seneca, South Carolina.

NRC officials said the civil penalty was being proposed because the company stored safeguards information on unprotected magnetic tapes and loaded safeguards information on a computer network without a self-contained protection program. The NRC said failure to control the processing of this information allowed safeguards data from all three company nuclear power plants to be available to employees who may not have been authorized access to it.

The NRC said Duke also failed to protect safeguards information on three other occasions. On August 16, 1993, safeguards information was found inside a desk which had been transferred to the Catawba plant from the company's General Office in Charlotte. On November 22, 1993, a list of combinations for all safeguards containers at the McGuire nuclear plant was found outside of the protected area and had apparently been unsecured since November 19. On December 6, 1993, a safeguards container containing safeguards information was found unsecured outside of the protected area at the Oconee nuclear power plant.

NRC officials said the company's immediate corrective action for the violations was prompt and that the company is taking further actions to institute procedures and controls to prevent similar occurrences.

The company has 30 days from receipt of the Notice of Violation, dated March 16, 1994, to either pay the civil penalty or to protest it.

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