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NRC STAFF PROPOSES TWO CIVIL PENALTIES AGAINST  
TVA AT SEQUOYAH NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has proposed two \$75,000 civil penalties against the Tennessee Valley Authority for alleged violation of NRC requirements at the Sequoyah nuclear power plant, operated by TVA near Chattanooga, Tennessee.

In a Notice of Violation sent to TVA on July 2, 1992, the NRC said one fine was being proposed following a NRC investigation completed December 24, 1991, which looked into an allegation that a calculation relating to the pulling of electrical cables through conduit was never signed or issued and that TVA managers directed that the calculation addressing worst case conduits be signed out even though they knew the worst case conduits were not selected or tested.

The NRC investigation did not substantiate the allegation. However, the NRC technical staff has informed TVA in a Notice of Violation that a \$75,000 civil penalty is being proposed because TVA managers failed to take prompt corrective action when they learned that the calculation has not been signed and issued and because they failed to provide complete and accurate information regarding the matter to the NRC in a submittal dated March 28, 1990. The NRC said that, had it been provided complete and accurate information, there would have been "substantial further inquiry" and that further testing was necessary after the inaccuracies were identified.

The NRC said the base civil penalty for these violations was \$50,000 but that it was increased to \$75,000 in this case because it was NRC's development of information received in an unsubstantiated allegation which led to identification of the violations.

In a separate letter containing another Notice of Violation, the NRC informed TVA that it is proposing a second \$75,000 civil penalty at Sequoyah. The NRC said, that on May 7, 1992, operators commenced heatup and pressurization of systems in Unit 2 with containment spray valves from the refueling water storage

tank in a closed position when they should have been open. The condition was identified by the plant staff on May 8 and reported to the NRC.

The NRC said operators were apparently closing the valves following evolutions requiring that they be open, raising concerns about adherence to procedures, operational protocol and questioning attitudes.

The NRC staff did recognize that immediate corrective actions were taken when the violation was identified.

The base civil penalty for this violation is also \$50,000, but the NRC staff raised it in this case to \$75,000 because of what the NRC staff said was TVA's past poor performance at this plant in the area of configuration control.

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

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