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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NRC STAFF PROPOSES \$100,000 FINE AGAINST DUKE POWER
FOR ALLEGED VIOLATION OF REQUIREMENTS AT OCONEE NUCLEAR PLANT

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has proposed a \$100,000 civil penalty against Duke Power Company for alleged violation of requirements at the Oconee nuclear power plant located near Seneca, South Carolina.

In a Notice of Violation sent to the company on December 28, 1992, NRC officials said the proposed action is being taken because company employees identified the existence of a reduced flow condition in the low pressure service water system and failed to take adequate corrective action to resolve the problem.

The NRC said it viewed as a significant safety issue the operation of the system from June 9, 1992, until September 14, 1992, with an inadequate cooling flow. The service water system provides water used in the operation of various components and systems in the plant.

The problem occurred in the service water system for Unit 3 of the three-unit plant.

The NRC said 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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