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NRC STAFF PROPOSES \$37,500 FINE FOR VIOLATIONS OF
NRC REQUIREMENTS AT MICHIGAN NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has proposed a \$37,500 fine against Michigan Power Company for failing to assure that emergency power would have been available, if needed, during September 1992 at D.C. Cook nuclear power plant Unit 2. The incident involved one of two emergency diesel generators which automatically shut down because of low lube oil pressure.

The generator automatically shut down September 28, 1992, when it was started for a routine surveillance test. A seal leak caused oil to escape from a pump which resulted in a lowered oil level and led to the shutdown. Plant personnel discovered the oil leak, in May 1992, prior to the incident and wrote a maintenance work request to fix it. Chemistry personnel notified operations personnel June 12, 1992, of the continued oil leak. However, the problem was not corrected.

Additionally, the oil level indicator apparently had air in its sensing line and was inaccurate. Also, the lube oil tank low level alarm failed to actuate on the low level and routine monitoring procedures did not properly address what actions operators were to take if they discovered low oil levels.

The company was cited for failing to follow requirements which state that an inoperable generator is required to be restored to an operable status within 72 hours or the reactor must be shut down.

The utility has taken corrective actions to restore the oil level to its normal operating range, to repair the oil seal and to check the emergency diesel generator bearings for damage. The utility also is revising the surveillance procedures, reviewing the work request prioritization process, creating work classification organization and performing an engineering review of the emergency diesel generator lube oil sump tank level indication design.

"While the actions described above should prevent this event or similar ones from occurring again, you should remember that

there is no procedural substitute for tenacity and questioning attitudes on the part of all of the separate organizations at the plant," stated Regional Administrator Bert Davis in notifying the utility of the enforcement action.

The utility has until March 10 to pay the fine or protest it. If the fine is protested and subsequently imposed by the NRC, the utility may request a hearing.

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