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NRC STAFF PROPOSES \$50,000 FINE AGAINST TVA
FOR ALLEGED SECURITY VIOLATIONS AT SEQUOYAH

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has proposed a \$50,000 civil penalty against the Tennessee Valley Authority for alleged violations of security requirements at the Sequoyah nuclear power plant, located near Chattanooga, Tennessee.

In a letter and Notice of Violation sent to TVA on February 18, 1993, Stewart D. Ebnetter, Administrator of the NRC's Region II office in Atlanta, said the civil penalty was being proposed because of a failure to adequately protect and control safeguards information (information related to the security of the plant). He said TVA personnel identified and corrected the individual violations but did not address the broad implication of the problem.

The first violation involved the sale and removal from the plant site of a safe containing safeguards information. The safe later came into the possession of a TVA employee who returned the documents to TVA. The NRC said that it was "fortuitous" that a TVA employee came into possession of the safe after it was improperly removed from the site and that the material was still retrievable.

Other violations, also identified by TVA personnel and verified by an NRC security inspector, include safeguards information identified in unlocked and unguarded security storage containers; information found stored in an improper container; safeguards information remaining unsecured in an alarm station after the station had been dismantled; documents not properly marked as safeguards information; retention of the name of a former employee on a safeguards information access list after he had terminated his employment; and numerous failures to log incidents involving improper handling of safeguards information.

TVA 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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