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NRC STAFF PROPOSES \$25,000 CIVIL PENALTY AGAINST GEORGIA POWER  
FOR ALLEGED VIOLATION OF NRC REQUIREMENTS AT VOGTLE NUCLEAR PLANT

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has proposed a \$25,000 civil penalty against Georgia Power Company for alleged violation of NRC requirements at the Vogtle nuclear power plant, operated by the company near Waynesboro, Georgia.

In a Notice of Violation dated June 30, 1994, NRC officials told the company that the fine was being proposed because of a problem identified by the company at the plant on April 24, 1994, and reported to the NRC. The NRC said the power supply for exhaust dampers on both trains of the Unit 1 piping penetration area filter and exhaust system were deenergized from March 1, 1994 until identified by the plant staff. The NRC said plant operators had numerous opportunities to identify and correct the problem.

The NRC said one safety function of this system is to maintain a negative pressure in the piping penetration rooms so that air would flow inward in the event of a leak. When the electric power supply to the dampers was cut off in error, they failed closed and caused the system to lose its ability to maintain negative pressure in some of the rooms served by this system.

The base civil penalty for this violation is \$50,000, but NRC officials said it was reduced in this case to \$25,000 because of the company's immediate corrective actions when the problem was identified. The dampers were promptly reenergized, appropriate drawings were corrected, surveillance procedures were clarified, involved individuals were counseled, and a case study was initiated to review and correct the causes of the problem.

The company has 30 days from the date of the Notice of Violation to either pay the civil penalty or to protest it.

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