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Tel. 301-504-2240

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
(Monday, October 26, 1992)

NRC STAFF PROPOSES \$50,000 FINE AGAINST CP&L  
FOR ALLEGED NONCOMPLIANCE AT ROBINSON NUCLEAR PLANT

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has proposed a \$50,000 civil penalty against Carolina Power and Light Company for alleged noncompliance with requirements at the H.B. Robinson nuclear power plant operated by the company near Hartsville, South Carolina.

NRC officials said the action was being taken because tests at the plant on August 23 and 24, 1992, revealed that foreign material had been left inside the plant's residual heat removal (RHR) system following a refueling outage between March 27 and June 24, 1992. They said that a safety injection pump in the RHR system was declared inoperable on July 8, 1992, due to plastic material, later identified as having come from plastic discs used during modifications on emergency core cooling system (ECCS) piping during the outage. The system was cleaned before being returned to service, but all of the plastic material was not identified and removed.

Stewart D. Ebnetter, Administrator of the NRC's Region II office in Atlanta, told company officials in a letter dated October 23, 1992, that the root causes of the violation were the inadequate control of material and a failure to perform an adequate inspection following completion of the modification work. He said use of the plastic discs was not described by the modification package and should have been approved prior to their use.

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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