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NRC PROPOSES TO FINE WATERFORD  
\$50,000 FOR DESIGN ERROR

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has notified the Waterford Steam Electric Station, Unit 3 nuclear power plant, operated by Entergy Operations, Inc., that it proposes to fine the company \$50,000 for allowing the installed configuration of a plant system to vary from the design described in the plant's Final Safety Analysis Report (FSAR).

The FSAR describes all Waterford 3's safety systems and provides the basis for the NRC's decision to grant an operating license for the plant.

During inspections conducted from June 3 to July 10 and August 27-29, NRC staff found that instrument lines which, during a loss-of-coolant accident, would carry potentially contaminated air, exhausted into a room without filtration or controlled ventilation. This could have allowed plant control room operators or the public outside the plant to receive radiation doses in excess of federal limits. Waterford engineers have corrected this problem and are reviewing other similar instrument lines.

The violation is classified as Severity Level III, with a civil penalty of \$50,000. The NRC classifies violations on a four-level scale, with Level I being the most severe. No one received an excess radiation dose because of the problem.

NRC Regional Administrator L. Joe Callan, said, in a letter to Waterford Vice President Michael B. Sellman, that the NRC was imposing the fine ". . . to emphasize the importance of ensuring that the plant is operated in accordance with its FSAR and the importance of prompt identification of non-conforming conditions . . ."

Entergy must respond to the NRC's Notice of Violation in writing within 30 days, during which time it may pay the civil penalty or protest it. If the protest is denied the company may ask for a hearing.

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