

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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NRC STAFF PROPOSES \$12,500 FINE
AGAINST ABB-CE'S MISSOURI NUCLEAR FUELS PLANT

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has proposed a \$12,500 civil penalty against ABB-Combustion Engineering Nuclear Fuel Company (ABB-CE) for three alleged instances of providing the NRC with incomplete or inaccurate information concerning the operation of the Hematite Fuel Manufacturing plant at Hematite, Missouri.

The information concerned (1) ABB-CE's evaluation of its chemical safety program, submitted to the NRC for licensing action last July 27, (2) its response in August to an NRC Notice of Violation concerning implementation of certain license conditions, and (3) its reply in November to an NRC Demand for Information regarding the maintenance and treatment of certain devices as criticality safety controls. The NRC noted that the proposed violations did not appear to be willful, but were due to an apparent breakdown in ABB-CE's review and approval process for submittal of regulatory correspondence.

NRC officials said the three alleged violations were collectively categorized as a Severity Level III problem, the agency's third most serious, because the proposed violations are indicative of a significant lack of attention toward licensed responsibility.

ABB-CE has 30 days to either pay the fine or to protest it. If the fine is protested and subsequently imposed by the NRC staff, the licensee may request a hearing.

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