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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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NRC STAFF PROPOSES \$15,000 CIVIL PENALTY AGAINST VEPCO  
FOR ALLEGED VIOLATION OF NRC REQUIREMENTS AT NORTH ANNA

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has proposed a \$15,000 civil penalty against Virginia Electric & Power Company for alleged noncompliance with NRC requirements at the North Anna nuclear power plant, located near Mineral, Virginia.

NRC officials said the civil penalty was being proposed for violations involving two examples of failure to demonstrate operability of subsystems of the Emergency Core Cooling System by conducting inadequate flow tests of centrifugal charging pumps to verify that water flow characteristics specified in the plant's technical specifications were met. They said no immediate safety problems resulted from the inadequate tests but that the company had experienced similar previous problems at North Anna and had not taken adequate corrective action.

The NRC said the violation cited was of a low severity level which normally does not involve proposal for a civil penalty. However, the agency said a civil penalty was warranted in this case because problems with inadequate flow rates could have been prevented had sufficient analyses and effective corrective actions been taken in response to previously identified violations.

The company had 30 days in which to either pay the civil penalty or to protest it, in whole or in part.

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