

No. 94-139
Tel. 301-415-8200

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
(Wednesday, August 31, 1994)

NRC STAFF PROPOSES \$75,000 CIVIL PENALTY AGAINST CP&L

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has proposed a \$75,000 civil penalty against Carolina Power & Light Company for alleged noncompliance with NRC requirements at the H. B. Robinson nuclear power plant, located near Hartsville, South Carolina.

In a letter to the company dated August 30, 1994, NRC officials said the penalty was being proposed because tests identified a flaw in the plant's control room ventilation system which could allow radiation levels in the room to exceed allowable limits during certain postulated emergency conditions. The NRC said operation of fans, under certain conditions during a postulated emergency, could cause the control room to experience an inflow of radioactive contamination due to loss of positive control room air pressure with respect to adjacent areas.

The NRC said the company failed to institute adequate design reviews and suitable testing programs to verify that the system was capable of performing its intended safety function but that the company's corrective actions were good.

The base civil penalty for this type of violation is \$50,000, but the NRC said it was raised to \$75,000 in this case because of the length of time the condition existed (from February, 1991 until May, 1994) and because it was identified as a result of an NRC inspection of system tests.

The company has 30 days from receipt of the Notice of Violation to either pay the civil penalty or to protest its imposition.

#