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NRC STAFF PROPOSES TO FINE BALTIMORE GAS & ELECTRIC CO.
\$50,000 FOR ALLEGED VIOLATIONS AT CALVERT CLIFFS

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has proposed a \$50,000 fine against Baltimore Gas & Electric Co. (BG&E) for violations of NRC fire protection requirements at its Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant in Lusby, Maryland.

NRC bases this action on two violations found during an inspection conducted May 8-10.

One violation was BG&E's failure, before an inspection in 1992, to implement a plan for limiting damage to equipment in one emergency switchgear room if a fire should occur in another similar room. (Both rooms, which contain equipment needed for safe shutdown of the plant, share a ventilation system with common ducting and fire dampers.)

The second violation involved BG&E's failure to verify adequately the corrective actions it took after the matter was brought to its attention in the 1992 inspection. The utility did not verify its corrective actions by detailed analysis until May of this year.

In a letter to BG&E officials, NRC Region I Administrator Thomas T. Martin said: "[T]he violations represent a breakdown in the control of licensed activities that collectively represent a potentially significant lack of attention toward licensed responsibilities which resulted in your failure, for an extended period of time, to demonstrate that the safe shutdown equipment criteria had been met."

The \$50,000 proposed fine is the base civil penalty for this level of violation. The company has 30 days to either pay the proposed fine or to request in writing that part, or all of it be withdrawn. It also has 30 days to admit or deny the alleged violations.

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