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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NRC STAFF PROPOSES \$25,000 CIVIL PENALTY
AGAINST FLORIDA POWER CORPORATION

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has proposed a \$25,000 civil penalty against Florida Power Corporation for alleged violations of NRC requirements at the Crystal River nuclear power plant near Crystal River, Florida.

In a letter to the company dated March 24, 1995, NRC officials said the penalty was being proposed because setpoints on several instruments were not set conservatively with respect to the technical specifications for those systems.

In a nuclear power plant, systems are designed to shut down the reactor if measurements of certain operating levels go outside assigned limits or setpoints. At the Crystal River facility, the NRC staff identified instruments where procedures failed to provide enough margin between where the instruments were left and the setpoint values required by the technical specifications.

The safety significance of the individual violations is low because the actual settings were not that far from the required values. However, the NRC staff is concerned that the process for setting the limits was ineffective.

The base civil penalty for this type of violation is \$50,000, but the NRC said it was reduced to \$25,000 because the company identified programmatic setpoint issues.

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

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