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FOR IMMEDIATE
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NRC STAFF PROPOSES TO FINE DUKE POWER \$100,000
FOR ALLEGED VIOLATION OF NRC REQUIREMENTS AT MCGUIRE

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has proposed a \$100,000 civil penalty against Duke Power Company for alleged violation of NRC requirements at the McGuire nuclear power plant, near Charlotte, North Carolina.

NRC officials said the fine was being proposed following a review of inspection findings of a special NRC Augmented Inspection Team (AIT) which was dispatched to the plant on December 29, 1993, following a loss of offsite power to the Unit 2 reactor on December 27 which resulted in one of the unit's four steam generators boiling dry when its Main Steam Isolation Valve (MSIV) failed to fully close. The MSIV on a second steam generator leaked but did not cause it to boil dry.

The McGuire plant has two reactors. Each reactor has four steam generators, and each steam generator has one main Steam Isolation Valve. The steam generators provide steam to run the turbines and also serve to remove heat from the water which cools the nuclear fuel in the reactor.

NRC officials said the problem resulted from inadequate MSIV maintenance and testing. They said procedures for conducting maintenance on the valves had not been revised to show manufacturer's requirements that valve testing be done at normal operating temperatures and did not include appropriate valve clearance acceptance criteria to ensure that valve components were adjusted at normal operating temperature to ensure proper closure.

NRC officials said the company took immediate corrective action following the event but that the safety consequences of the failed valve were significant because the steam generator was depressurized and dried out.

The base civil penalty for this violation is \$50,000, but the NRC said it was doubled in this case because the company had

information from the manufacturer in May of 1981 and an update in April of 1992 which provided sufficient information to revise procedures to prevent such an occurrence.

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

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