

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Public Affairs, Region II
61 Forsyth Street, Suite 23T85
Atlanta, GA 30303

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Contact: Ken Clark or Roger Hannah

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**NRC STAFF PROPOSES TO FINE CP&L \$55,000
FOR A VIOLATION AT THE HARRIS NUCLEAR POWER PLANT**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has proposed a \$55,000 civil penalty against Carolina Power & Light Company for a violation of NRC requirements relating to the granting of unescorted access at the Harris nuclear power plant southwest of Raleigh.

Based on an NRC inspection in December 1997 and information provided by CP&L, the NRC staff determined that two individuals were inappropriately granted unescorted access to protected and vital areas of the plant because information was not properly reviewed and evaluated.

In a letter to CP&L, NRC Regional Administrator Luis Reyes said CP&L identified the individuals improperly granted access, and the company took prompt and comprehensive corrective actions. Under normal circumstances, Reyes said "a civil penalty would not be considered" when the licensee has been given credit for identification and corrective action. However, he said this violation is similar to earlier violations and "to emphasize the importance of precluding similar violations associated with the access authorization program," the NRC staff determined that a \$55,000 civil penalty was appropriate.

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

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