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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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NRC STAFF PROPOSES \$100,000 CIVIL PENALTY AGAINST CP&L  
FOR ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF NRC REQUIREMENTS AT ROBINSON

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has proposed a \$100,000 civil penalty against Carolina Power & Light Company for alleged violation of NRC requirements at the H. B. Robinson nuclear power plant, located near Hartsville, South Carolina.

NRC officials said the civil penalty was being proposed because, on February 26 of this year, plant operators cooled down the reactor's pressurizer faster than the unit's technical specifications allowed. The pressurizer is a vessel smaller than the reactor which contains water and pressurized steam and is used to maintain required pressures in the primary cooling system. Technical specifications limit the rate of cooldown in order to prevent possible adverse effects upon the metal.

NRC officials said there was no immediate safety threat involved in this event, but that operators exceeded cooldown limits in this case by allowing the vessel to cool at a rate of 240 degrees (Fahrenheit) per hour instead of at the set limit of 200 degrees. They added that subsequent reviews revealed pressurizer cooldown rates at Robinson were exceeded 16 times since 1980. The NRC said that this violation and other violations issued by the NRC in this area were indicative of weaknesses in management oversight and inattention to detail on the part of licensed operators.

The company was cited, but not fined, for two additional alleged violations involving failure to ensure containment building integrity for a 23-day period while operating at power and failure to make necessary changes to plant documents to control a number of containment isolation valves.

CP&L has 30 days to either pay the civil penalty or to protest it.

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**United States  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Region II**

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