



NRC NEWS

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NRC ORDERS B&W TO PAY \$32,500 FOR VIOLATION DURING CHEMICAL SPILL

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has ordered B&W Nuclear Operations Group in Lynchburg, Va., to pay a \$32,500 civil penalty for B&W's failure to have adequate instructions for workers on how to neutralize acid spills.

The violation was identified after an event in April 2008 when a process operator took inappropriate actions to neutralize a spill of hydrofluoric acid by adding sodium hydroxide, a strong base, which reacted violently to the acid on the floor. This resulted in an injury to the operator's eye that required medical attention.

B&W had disputed the severity level of the violation and objected to the proposed civil penalty, but the NRC found that the violation occurred as stated in the original notice to the company and the civil penalty was appropriate under the NRC's enforcement program.

"Although we recognize the timely and effective response by B&W staff, the injury was significant and under different circumstances, the injury could have been more serious," said Luis Reyes, NRC Region II Administrator.

B&W has 20 days to either pay the civil penalty or request a hearing.

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