

MA/2

MAY 28 1980

Docket Nos. 50-280  
50-281  
EA-80-28

Virginia Electric and Power Company  
ATTN: J. H. Ferguson  
Executive Vice President-Power  
Post Office Box 26666  
Richmond, VA 23261

Gentlemen:

On April 14, 1980, a truck carrying radioactive waste left your Surry facility for Barnwell, South Carolina. Subsequent radiation surveys at Barnwell on April 22 and 23, revealed an area on the outer truck surface with radiation levels approximately 1.4 times regulatory limits.

Our evaluation of this matter indicates the problem was caused by improper radiation surveys of waste drums delivered to a carrier for transport and improper radiation surveys of the transport vehicle after loading. A similar event involving surface radiation levels above Department of Transportation regulatory limits was revealed a year ago and discussed in IE Inspection Report No. 50-280/79-16; 50-281/79-24. These events indicate an inadequacy in your radiation survey program as it relates to radioactive waste management and shipment. In this specific case, it was noted that the three separate surveys which were performed during the course of preparing the waste for shipment and its loading onto the transport vehicle failed to detect a package exhibiting high radiation levels (600-800 mrem/hr). The specific event and our concerns relative to your survey program in general were discussed in a meeting on April 30, 1980, in the Region II Office in Atlanta, Georgia, between Mr. James P. O'Reilly, Director of Region II and his staff, and Mr. J. H. Ferguson of your staff.

As the result of our inspection of these matters, and our concerns as discussed during the April 30 meeting, we propose to impose civil penalties for the items of noncompliance set forth in Appendix A to this letter, in a total amount of \$8,000. Appendix B to this letter is a Notice of Proposed Imposition of Civil Penalties. You are required to respond to this letter, and in preparing your response you should follow the instructions in Appendices A and B.

CERTIFIED MAIL  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

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MAY 28 1980

Virginia Electric and Power Company - 2 -

In accordance with Section 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice", Part 2, Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, a copy of this letter and the enclosures will be placed in the Commission's Public Document Room.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By  
R. C. DeYoung

Victor J. Stello, Jr.  
Director  
Office of Inspection  
and Enforcement

Enclosures:

1. Appendix A, Notice of Violation
2. Appendix B, Notice of Proposed Imposition of Civil Penalties

cc: J. L. Wilson, Manager  
Post Office Box 315  
Surry, VA 23883

U.S. Department of Transportation  
ATTN: William L. Barrow  
Federal Highway Administration  
1720 Peachtree Road, N.W., Suite 200  
Atlanta, Georgia

Chem-Nuclear Systems, Inc.  
ATTN: Lee Hebbard  
Site Manager  
P. O. Box 726  
Barnwell, SC 29812

Copy FAX'd  
to RII 5/22/80  
JWB

*Jim Lieberman  
concur*

WPU:DM  
5/21/80  
Job Q

*JWB*  
XOOS:IE  
FWBrockett  
5/22/80

*J*  
FFMSI:IE  
AGrella  
5/22/80

*JWB*  
FFMSI:IE  
JShtezek  
5/22/80

ELD  
JLieberman  
5/22/80

*JWB*  
XOOS:IE  
DThompson  
5/22/80

*JWB*  
DD:IE  
RCDeYoung  
5/22/80

*JWB*  
DVE  
VStello  
5/23/80