



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

August 15, 1979

Virginia Electric and Power Company
Attn: Stanley Ragone, President
Post Office Box 26666
Richmond, Virginia 23261

Docket No. 50-281
License No. DPR-37

Gentlemen:

This refers to the special inspection conducted by our Region II office in Atlanta, Georgia on April 15-19, 1979, of activities authorized by NRC License No. DPR-37 for Surry Unit 2 as a result of your reporting an exposure of one of your employees to radiation in excess of 10 rems during an entry into the incore instrument room on April 14, 1979.

The inspection consisted of selective examinations of procedures and representative records, interviews with personnel, and observations by the inspector. The findings of this inspection were discussed with W. L. Stewart and others of his staff on April 19, May 2, and May 7, 1979. Specific items of noncompliance revealed during this inspection are set forth in the Notice of Violation, enclosed as Appendix A to this letter.

Our concern with regard to this overexposure is amplified in that the potential for significant personnel exposures from entries into this area was brought to your attention by IE Circular 76-03, "Radiation Exposures in Reactor Cavities," dated September 10, 1976. The overexposure apparently resulted from a disregard on the part of an individual for the precautions discussed in your response to this circular. In addition, the individual overexposed, while entering the incore instrument room beneath the reactor vessel, was a senior reactor operator and the senior VEPCO operations representative onsite at the time. We are seriously concerned that the actions of this senior member of your staff might serve as an example to your employees. The significance of this occurrence cannot be overstated.

Consequently, we propose civil penalties in the cumulative amount of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00) for the items of noncompliance set forth in Appendix A to this letter. Appendix B to this letter is the Notice of Proposed Imposition of Civil Penalties. You are required to respond to this letter, and in preparing your response should follow the instructions in Appendix A.

Your written reply to this letter and Notice of Violation and the findings of our continuing inspection program will be considered in determining whether further enforcement action, such as additional civil penalties or orders to suspend, modify or revoke the license, may be required to assure continued compliance.

Certified Mail
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

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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 NRC's Public Document Room.

Sincerely,



Victor 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 w/enclosures:

W. L. Proffitt, Senior Vice President
Post Office Box 26666
Richmond, Virginia 23261

W. L. Stewart, Manager
Post Office Box 315
Surry, Virginia 23883

Commonwealth of Virginia

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