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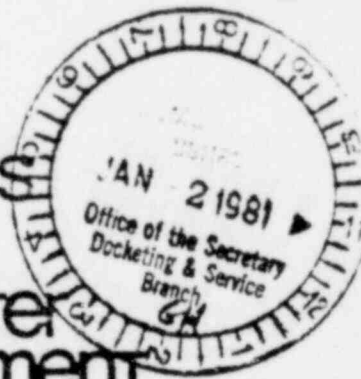
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Secretary of the Commission  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20055

Attn: Docketing and Service Branch

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To the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission:

Citizens for a Better Environment (CBE), a not-for-profit research and litigation organization, with over 10,000 members nationwide, hereby submits the following comments concerning the NRC's "Proposed General Statement of Policy and Procedure for Enforcement Actions."

CBE supports the goals of this enforcement program as set out in Section I. However, CBE fears that a punitive civil penalty may not have the appropriate deterrent effect. It could make nondisclosure and cover-up more attractive. Moreover, regarding commercial nuclear plants, the higher the fine the greater effect it will have on electric rates—whether it is passed through to ratepayers or not. If it is directly passed through, an electric utility's failure to comply with NRC regulations would directly punish the blameless ratepayers. CBE believes that the NRC must specify that fines not be picked up directly by the ratepayers, but instead be borne by the stockholders who could affect the course of management.

CBE applauds the idea behind the 50 percent reduction for timely identification and correction of a violation, but there may be even a greater incentive if where good faith is shown the fine is disposed of altogether. Such a practice would "reward" laudatory behaviour instead of simply punish violations.

The only area where CBE believe that serious punitive fines (at least as high as in Table 1) should be imposed is for willful conduct, including failure to report or disclose violations promptly.

These comments are submitted on behalf of CBE by:

*Robert Goldsmith*  
Robert Goldsmith

Acknowledged by card... 1/2/81

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