



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

May 9, 1985

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The Honorable Edward J. Markey, Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy Conservation and Power
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Enclosed for your information is an announcement that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has proposed to fine the Tennessee Valley Authority \$112,500 for alleged noncompliance with NRC requirements at the Sequoyah nuclear power plant located at Soddy-Daisy, Tennessee.

It is planned to mail this information to the news media today, May 9, 1985.

Sincerely,

Carlton Kammerer
for Carlton Kammerer, Director
Office of Congressional Affairs

Enclosure:
As stated

cc: Rep. Carlos Moorhead

IDENTICAL LETTER SENT TO:
Sen. Simpson/cc: Sen. Hart
Rep. Udall/cc: Rep. Lujan
Sen. Gore
Sen. Sasser
Rep. Lloyd

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**
Office of Public Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20555

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
(Wednesday, May 8, 1985)

**NRC STAFF PROPOSES \$112,500 CIVIL PENALTY AGAINST TVA
FOR ALLEGED NONCOMPLIANCE AT SEQUOYAH NUCLEAR PLANT**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission Staff has proposed to fine the Tennessee Valley Authority \$112,500 for alleged noncompliance with NRC requirements at the Sequoyah nuclear power plant located at Soddy-Daisy, Tennessee.

The NRC action follows an event at the facility on April 19, 1984, in which a tube used to insert instrumentation into the Unit 1 reactor core was ejected as workers were cleaning it while the reactor was operating at 30 percent power. Several workers hastily evacuated the room where the job was being done to avoid injury from radiation or scalding steam and water ejected from the reactor cooling system along with the tube.

The NRC told TVA that several violations were identified during special inspections at Sequoyah on August 27-31 and October 4-5, 1984. NRC inspectors found that the procedure used to clean thimble tubes had previously been used only while the reactor was in cold shutdown. They said the maintenance procedure being used while the reactor was at power was "inappropriate for use and specifically disallowed such use for the cleaning of this system while the facility was at power."

NRC inspectors also cited TVA for failure to follow technical specification requirements in that the cleaning activity was conducted without adequate review as required by the Plant Operations Review Committee. And, the NRC said TVA modified the cleaning tool on several occasions without review to ascertain potential detrimental safety effects.

The NRC said injury to plant personnel was avoided due to "pre-maintenance training and the alert reaction by the persons involved."

Dr. J. Nelson Grace, Administrator of the NRC's Region II office in Atlanta, told TVA in a letter that the violations "indicate a lack of management oversight which could lead to more serious events if adequate corrective actions are not taken." He added that the NRC recognizes that TVA has voluntarily implemented portions of a special regulatory improvement program from its Browns Ferry nuclear power plant at Sequoyah and said that "resulting changes should minimize the possibility for recurrence of similar events."

TVA has 30 days in which to either pay the penalty or to protest its imposition, in whole or in part.