



NRC NEWS

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS, REGION II

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NRC STAFF PROPOSES \$88,000 CIVIL PENALTY AGAINST TVA BASED UPON DEPARTMENT OF LABOR FINDING OF DISCRIMINATION

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has proposed an \$88,000 civil penalty against the Tennessee Valley Authority based upon U. S. Department of Labor findings that TVA wrongly discriminated against a nuclear power plant employee because the employee had raised safety concerns at the Watts Bar nuclear power plant near Spring City, Tennessee.

NRC officials informed TVA in a letter dated October 15 that DOL findings related to a discrimination complaint, filed by the employee, indicated TVA discriminated against the employee in 1995 and 1996, because the employee had engaged in protected activities, by arranging the employee's transfer to TVA Services and failing to re-employ the employee once the employee had been transferred, resulting in the employee's eventual lay-off from TVA.

Based on NRC review of the DOL findings and TVA's responses, the NRC has determined that a violation of NRC requirements occurred.

NRC officials said that because TVA has filed an appeal of the DOL decision in the U.S. Court of Appeals, TVA may defer payment of the civil penalty until the appeal process has been completed.

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