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NRC Proposes \$70,000 Civil Penalty to Kewaunee for Violating Agency Requirements

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has proposed a \$70,000 civil penalty against Dominion Energy Kewaunee Inc., after the NRC determined fire drills were not being properly conducted and fire drill records were falsified. The plant is located in Kewaunee, Wis., 40 miles southeast of Green Bay. Dominion announced last year plans to shut down and decommission the plant. The plant will stop operation on May 7.

An inspection and investigation by the NRC concluded that between August 2009 and December 2011, a former fire brigade trainer had conducted training sessions instead of actual fire drills. The former trainer then falsely claimed on required forms that the drills and response activities were completed.

“These violations are serious because while training sessions can provide valuable information, licensees are required to conduct actual fire drills so plant employees have the ability to practice and demonstrate these protection capabilities. Licensees are also required to maintain complete and accurate forms documenting the drills they conduct,” said NRC Region III Administrator Charles Casto. “Although the actions were taken by an individual, the NRC holds the licensee accountable for the actions of their employees.”

The NRC determined that even though the plant failed to meet the regulations, the onsite fire brigade had the necessary experience, knowledge, and resources available to capably combat a fire.

The NRC evaluates a nuclear power plant’s performance with a color-coded process that classifies regulatory findings as green, white, yellow or red, in order of increasing safety significance. After considering the technical information concerning these violations, the NRC staff assigned Dominion’s actions a white inspection finding, meaning they had a low to moderate safety significance.

The licensee has taken corrective actions that include an internal investigation into the fire brigade trainer’s activities; actions against the former trainer and the individual’s former supervisor; a revision to the plant’s fire drill procedures to specify actions and definitions as they pertain to meeting the regulations; and restoring correct conduct of fire drills.

The NRC will conduct a supplemental inspection to ensure the cause of the problem is understood, the extent of the cause is identified, and the corrective actions are sufficient to prevent recurrence.

Copies of the Enforcement Action will be posted on the [Agencywide Documents Access and Management System](#) (ADAMS) at the NRC website.