

June 14, 1983

Letter to Mr. Chairman

The Honorable Richard L. Ottinger, Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy Conservation and Power
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Enclosed for your information is an announcement that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has proposed a \$40,000 civil penalty against Mississippi Power & Light Company for alleged noncompliance with NRC security requirements at the Grand Gulf nuclear power plant, located near Port Gibson, Mississippi.

This information has been distributed to the news media.

Sincerely,

Carlton Kammerer, Director
Office Congressional Affairs

Enclosure:
As stated

cc: Rep. Carlos Moorhead

IDENTICAL LETTER SENT TO:

The Honorable Alan Simpson, Chairman
cc: Senator Gary Hart

The Honorable Morris K. Udall, Chairman
cc: Representative Manuel Lujan

The Honorable Edward Markey, Chairman
cc: Representative Ron Marlenee

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Sen. Thad Cochran
Sen. John Stennis
Rep. Wayne Dowdy

OFFICE						
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DATE						



UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Office of Public Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20555

No. 83-95
301/492-7715

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Tel.
(Monday, June 13, 1983)

NRC STAFF PROPOSES \$40,000 CIVIL PENALTY AGAINST MISSISSIPPI POWER & LIGHT COMPANY

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has proposed a \$40,000 civil penalty against Mississippi Power & Light Company for alleged noncompliance with NRC security requirements at the Grand Gulf nuclear power plant, located near Port Gibson, Mississippi.

The proposed NRC action follows identification by the agency's senior resident inspector on April 29, 1983, of a sleeping security guard at an air lock through which personnel must pass to enter the containment building which houses the reactor and associated vital equipment.

James P. O'Reilly, Administrator of the NRC's Region II office in Atlanta, informed the company on June 13 that the civil penalty was being proposed because the company failed to provide positive access control to a vital area as required and to impress upon company management the necessity to communicate to all employees the importance of maintaining required levels of security at all times.

Grand Gulf holds an NRC low-power operating license and is conducting tests prior to beginning operations.

O'Reilly said that the company took immediate action to correct the problem and that NRC officials were satisfied with actions taken to preclude its recurrence.

The company has 30 days from receipt of the proposed penalty to either pay the fine or protest its imposition, in whole or in part.

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