

August 25, 1983

*Leg-Gen
Watt - Mr. Hart
PR*

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 reduced the amount of a proposed civil penalty from \$40,000 to \$20,000 at Mississippi Power & Light Company's Grand Gulf nuclear power plant, located near Port Gibson, Mississippi.

It is planned to mail this information to the news media today, August 25, 1983.

Sincerely,

Carlton Kammerer, Director
Office of Congressional Affairs

Enclosure:
As stated

cc: Rep. Carlos Moorhead

IDENTICAL LETTER SENT TO:
Sen. Alan Simpson/cc: Sen. Gary Hart
Rep. Morris Udall/cc: Rep. Manuel Lujan
Rep. Edward Markey/cc: Rep. Ron Marlenee
Sen. Thad Cochran
Sen. John Stennis
Rep. Wayne Dowdy

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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Office of Public Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20555

No. 83-132
Tel. 301/492-7715

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
(Thursday, August 25, 1983)

NRC STAFF REDUCES PROPOSED CIVIL PENALTY TO \$20,000 AT MP&L'S GRAND GULF NUCLEAR PLANT IN MISSISSIPPI

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has reduced the amount of a proposed civil penalty from \$40,000 to \$20,000 at Mississippi Power & Light Company's Grand Gulf nuclear power plant, located near Port Gibson, Mississippi.

On April 29, 1983, an NRC inspector identified a guard asleep at his post where he was supposed to be controlling access through an entrance into the containment building which houses the nuclear reactor. This is a violation of NRC security requirements.

The NRC staff proposed a civil penalty of \$40,000 against MP&L on June 13, 1983. On July 12, 1983, the company responded with a request that the NRC staff reevaluate the basis for the proposed penalty because the operating license for the plant limited operation to five percent of power, lowering the severity of the security violation due to the small amount of radioactive material present.

In a letter dated August 19, 1983, Richard C. DeYoung, Director of the NRC's Office of Inspection and Enforcement, notified the company that a review of the specific violation at Grand Gulf had resulted in imposition of a lower civil penalty.

An NRC Order has been issued to the company, directing that the \$20,000 civil penalty be paid within 30 days. The company still has the opportunity to request a hearing on the matter. Such a request must be filed within 30 days.

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