

December 21, 1983

*Leg-gen
Mississippi Power Co.
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 notified Mississippi Power and Light Company that it is proposing a \$12,000 civil penalty against the utility regarding the Grand Gulf nuclear power plant.

It is planned to mail this information to the news media today, December 21, 1983.

Sincerely,

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
Rep. Markey/cc: Rep. Marlenee
Sen. Cochran
Sen. Stennis
Rep. Dowdy

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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Office of Public Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20555

No. 83-178
Tel. 301/492-7715

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
(Wednesday, December 21, 1983)

NRC STAFF PROPOSES \$12,000 CIVIL PENALTY AGAINST MISSISSIPPI POWER & LIGHT

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has notified Mississippi Power and Light Company that it is proposing a \$12,000 civil penalty against the utility for alleged violations of NRC requirements at the Grand Gulf nuclear power plant near Port Gibson, Mississippi.

James P. O'Reilly, Administrator of the NRC's Region II office in Atlanta, informed the company in a letter that the fine was being proposed because plant personnel failed to follow proper procedures during maintenance and a temporary modification on an emergency diesel generator which was damaged by a small fire on September 4, 1983.

O'Reilly said work orders were issued without proper authorization from operations personnel and that a temporary modification on a diesel generator associated with the repairs was made without proper authorization or notification.

He said that although the violations were categorized by the NRC as Level IV, violations that normally do not receive a civil penalty, they were similar in nature to previous violations. The civil penalty is being proposed, he said, to emphasize the importance the NRC places on these matters, particularly in correcting the root cause.

The company has 30 days in which to either pay the fine or to protest its imposition, in whole or in part.

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