



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

June 4, 1985

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The Honorable Edward J. Markey, Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy Conservation and Power
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Enclosed for your information is an announcement that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has proposed to fine Mississippi Power and Light Company \$500,000 for alleged material false statements made to the NRC in regard to operator qualifications and training at the Grand Gulf nuclear power plant, located near Port Gibson, Mississippi.

This announcement will be mailed to the news media today.

Sincerely,

Carlton Kammerer, Director
Office of Congressional Affairs

Enclosure:
As stated

cc: Rep. Carlos Moorhead

IDENTICAL LETTER SENT TO:
Rep. Udall/cc: Rep. Lujan
Sen. Simpson/cc: Sen. Hart
Sen. Cochran
Sen. Stennis
Rep. Dowdy

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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
(Monday, June 3, 1985)

NRC STAFF PROPOSES \$500,000 CIVIL PENALTY AGAINST MISSISSIPPI POWER & LIGHT FOR ALLEGED NONCOMPLIANCE WITH NRC REQUIREMENTS AT GRAND GULF NUCLEAR PLANT

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has proposed to fine Mississippi Power and Light Company \$500,000 for alleged material false statements made to the NRC in regard to operator qualifications and training at the Grand Gulf nuclear power plant, located near Port Gibson, Mississippi.

NRC officials said the action follows identification by the NRC of discrepancies in documentation of operator training during a special training assessment conducted by the NRC in February of 1983 and a special safety inspection conducted by the agency's Atlanta Regional Office during August and September of 1983.

In a letter to the company, James M. Taylor, Director of the NRC's Office of Inspection and Enforcement, said that inspection and investigation findings by the NRC "demonstrate that the program for training reactor operators and senior reactor operators ... had not been established in accordance with commitments made in the Final Safety Analysis Report" for the plant "and as required by NRC regulations." He said the NRC determined that 46 applications for reactor operator and senior reactor operator licenses contained incorrect MP&L certification that each individual applicant had completed required training or courses of instruction.

Taylor said the information was false in that the amount of training actually completed was less than that described in the operator license applications. He added that this information was "material" because, "had the complete and accurate information been known to the NRC, the applicants would not have been permitted to participate in the NRC licensing examination and, consequently, would not have received licenses." In addition, he said, a separate material false statement was made by omission when, even after MP&L officials became aware in 1982 that false information had been submitted, they failed to notify the NRC or to correct the submittals.

As a result, the NRC official said, a review was conducted of previous training of all licensed operators and certain operators were removed from licensed duties until they could be retrained and retested.

The NRC's Atlanta Regional Office conducted licensed operator recertification and walk-through examinations in February of 1984. Each licensed operator tested had undergone an individual examination by the company prior to the NRC test on each of 68 systems listed on the Grand Gulf licensed operator qualification card.

NRC examiners determined that 23 of 26 operators were able to pass the test. Three who failed were removed from licensed duties.

"These actions," Taylor said, "provide reasonable assurance that operators presently at the controls of the facility have met NRC requirements for training." But he said the NRC will continue to closely monitor MP&L's corrective actions and that failure to carry them out "may lead to further enforcement action."

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

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