

March 7, 1984

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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 has proposed a \$40,000 civil penalty against Tennessee Valley Authority for alleged violation of NRC security requirements at the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant.

It is planned to mail this information to the news media today, March 7, 1984.

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. Denton
Sen. Heflin
Rep. Flippo

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**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**
Office of Public Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20555

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(Wednesday, March 7, 1984)

**NRC STAFF PROPOSES \$40,000 CIVIL PENALTY AGAINST TVA
FOR ALLEGED VIOLATION AT BROWNS FERRY**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has proposed a \$40,000 civil penalty against Tennessee Valley Authority for alleged violation of NRC security requirements at the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant near Athens, Alabama.

This action is being taken because of NRC inspection findings which confirmed a notification by TVA that a Browns Ferry security officer left the entrance to a vital area unattended during a practice radiological evacuation drill on November 10, 1983. (NRC regulations define a "vital area" as one which contains "any equipment, system, device or material, the failure, destruction or release of which could directly or indirectly endanger the public health and safety by exposure to radiation.")

James P. O'Reilly, NRC Regional Administrator in Atlanta, said the fine is being proposed "to re-emphasize the need for Tennessee Valley Authority to ensure that its security program is adequately managed to prevent violations of this nature from occurring in the future."

Mr. O'Reilly said the violation was discussed with TVA management during an enforcement conference on December 16, 1983, at the NRC regional office in Atlanta. He said TVA has now revised its procedures to improve its security program management.

TVA has 30 days to pay the civil penalty or to protest it in whole or in part.

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