



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

May 24, 1985

*Lee
PR
Louisiana Power*

The Honorable Edward 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 Louisiana Power & Light Company \$130,000 for alleged violations of NRC requirements at the company's Waterford 3 nuclear power generating facility.

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:

SEN. SIMPSON/CC: SEN. HART
REP. UDALL/CC: REP. LUJAN

SEN. JOHNSTON
SEN. LONG
REP. BOGGS
REP. LIVINGSTON
REP. TAUBIN



UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

**Office of Public Affairs
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
(Friday, May 24, 1985)

NRC STAFF CITES LOUISIANA POWER & LIGHT COMPANY; PROPOSES \$130,000 FINE

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has proposed to fine Louisiana Power & Light Company \$130,000 for alleged violations of NRC requirements at the company's Waterford 3 nuclear power generating facility near Taft, Louisiana.

Over the last two years several special inspections were conducted by the NRC to review and evaluate issues associated with numerous allegations relating to the adequacy of LP&L's quality assurance program. In June 1983, an NRC inquiry team was formed to gather information as a result of the allegations. In February and March 1984, the NRC Construction Appraisal Team inspected Waterford 3 to evaluate construction activities. In April 1984, the NRC Waterford Task Force began an onsite review of issues relevant to LP&L's quality assurance program. Results of these actions have been reported previously.

The NRC staff informed the company that the alleged violations identified during the review by the Waterford Task Force have been grouped into 13 separate areas. The alleged violations principally involve LP&L's failure to take corrective action when warranted, maintain and review records properly, assure proper welder certification, provide adequate procedures, maintain design control, and implement an adequate inspection program.

Robert D. Martin, NRC Region IV Administrator, in a letter, told LP&L management that the Waterford 3 enforcement action was unusual in that it encompasses violations identified during a major effort involving more than 50 NRC representatives for almost a year. Mr. Martin noted that the violations occurred at various times during the multi-year construction phase and required aggressive action on LP&L's part to correct the problems.

Mr. Martin said the violations illustrate weaknesses that existed in LP&L's implementation of its quality assurance program during construction of the Waterford 3 unit. He emphasized that the violations are of concern to the NRC since LP&L is responsible for ensuring that their quality assurance program continues to function well now that Waterford 3 is operating.

"LP&L's prompt response and corrective actions to resolve the numerous quality assurance deficiencies identified during construction gives the NRC staff confidence that LP&L can maintain an adequate QA program for operating Waterford 3 plant," Mr. Martin said.

LP&L must respond to the Notice of Violation within 60 days.