

March 16, 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 staff has proposed a \$20,000 fine against
Iowa Electric Light and Power Company for an alleged violation of
NRC security requirements at the Duane Arnold Energy Center.

It is planned to mail this information to the news media today,
March 16, 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. Grssley
Sen. Jepsen
Rep. Tauke

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

No. 84-34
Tel. 301/492-7715

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
(Friday, March 16, 1984)

**NRC STAFF PROPOSES \$20,000 FINE AGAINST IOWA ELECTRIC
FOR SECURITY VIOLATION AT DUANE ARNOLD ENERGY CENTER**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has proposed a \$20,000 fine against Iowa Electric Light and Power Company for an alleged violation of NRC security requirements at the Duane Arnold Energy Center near Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

The alleged violation, which occurred on December 20-21, 1983, involved uncontrolled access to a vital area of the plant for about an 11-hour period because louvres had been removed from an exterior wall of a plant building during maintenance work at the plant. A portion of the building is considered a vital area because it contains equipment for the safe operation and shutdown of the plant.

The building is located within the security area of the plant, and access to the area is controlled by the plant's security force and alarm systems. A review by the utility and the NRC determined there were no security incidents resulting from the access violation.

Specific details of the security violation are not permitted to be disclosed because they constitute "Safeguards Information," under Federal law.

The access violation was discovered by the utility and reported to the NRC, as required.

The normal fine for such a security violation is \$40,000, but the amount was reduced because of the company's prompt and extensive actions to correct the security problem and prevent a recurrence. The actions included a thorough investigation of the incident, a search of the area, the security review of persons with access to the area, and disciplinary action against the supervisor responsible for the incident.

The utility has until April 13, 1984, to pay the fine or protest it. If the fine is protested and subsequently imposed by the NRC staff, the utility may request a hearing.

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