

June 19, 1984

*Mr. E.
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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 staff of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has cited the Philadelphia Electric Company for five alleged violations of technical specifications while operating the company's Peach Bottom Atomic Station, Units 2 and 3.

It is planned to mail this information to the news media today, June 19, 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. Heinz
Sen. Specter
Rep. Walker
Rep. Goodling

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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

**Office of Public Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20555**

No. 84-75
Tel. 301/492-7715

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
(Tuesday, June 19, 1984)

NRC STAFF PROPOSES \$30,000 FINE AGAINST PHILADELPHIA ELECTRIC; ORDERS COMPANY TO REVIEW ITS OPERATING PROCEDURES

The staff of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has cited the Philadelphia Electric Company for five alleged violations of technical specifications while operating the company's Peach Bottom Atomic Station, Units 2 and 3, in York County on the Susquehanna River. The staff proposes to fine the company \$30,000 for three of the alleged violations.

The NRC staff also has ordered Philadelphia Electric to establish a plan for the review and appraisal of their process for performing safety evaluations and also certain plant procedures related to these violations. The plan must be submitted to the NRC staff for review and approval within sixty days. Following NRC staff review, the plan will be implemented.

The three alleged violations which have been assigned a fine were found by the licensee and involved failures to strictly adhere to technical specification limits. Specifically, they involved exceeding the maximum allowable reactor heatup rate, allowing pressure in the reactor to go beyond the limit specified for a given temperature and failing to recognize that a control rod was inserted into the reactor at a rate slower than required.

The other two alleged violations were found by an NRC inspector between January 5 and 20, 1984. They involved changes to facility procedures in 1977-79 that were not properly reviewed and three instances in 1980 and 1983 of failures to follow procedures.

Specifically, one of the alleged violations involved changes to the plant procedures for shutting down the reactors without insuring that the changes did not violate the plant technical specifications. As a consequence, PECO repeatedly shut down the reactors, between 1977 and 1983, in a manner contrary to the plant technical specifications. As a result of this alleged violation, PECO was ordered by NRC to review its process for making changes to important operating procedures as well as to review other similar operating procedures to ensure that they are consistent with the NRC-approved criteria for plant operations.

The other alleged violation involved failures to follow administrative and surveillance procedures and was not subject to any type of escalated enforcement action. Specifically, it involved three instances of failing to follow written procedures while troubleshooting equipment that controls the sequence in which control rods are inserted into the reactor.

In a letter informing the company of this enforcement action and imposing the order, Richard C. DeYoung, Director of the NRC's Office of Inspection and Enforcement, said, "these violations demonstrate the need for improvements at Peach Bottom to assure that the plant is operated in accordance with technical specifications."

The company has 30 days either to pay the fine or to request in writing that part or all of it be withdrawn. The company also has 30 days to write to the NRC staff and describe what was done or will be done to assure that these alleged violations do not recur.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has been informed of this proposed enforcement action.

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