



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

February 27, 1985

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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 a \$15,000 civil penalty against Tennessee Valley Authority for alleged violation of NRC requirements at the Browns Ferry nuclear plant.

It is planned to mail this information to the news media today, February 27, 1985.

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. Denton
Sen. Heflin
Rep. Flippo

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

No. 85-157
Tel. 301/492-7715

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
(Wednesday, February 27, 1985)

**NRC STAFF PROPOSES TO FINE TVA \$150,000
FOR ALLEGED VIOLATIONS AT BROWNS FERRY**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has proposed a \$150,000 civil penalty against Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) for alleged violation of NRC requirements at the Browns Ferry nuclear plant near Athens, Alabama.

A special NRC safety inspection October 22 through November 1, 1984, found four alleged violations on which this enforcement action is based. These findings were discussed with TVA at an enforcement conference conducted on November 7 at the Browns Ferry plant.

Two of the alleged violations involve improper start-up procedures at the plant. NRC inspectors determined that, on October 22, TVA operators at Browns Ferry Unit 3 incorrectly programmed the computer which is supposed to assure that the proper control rod withdrawal sequence is followed. Inspectors also found that, contrary to the unit's license requirements, neither this computer control nor an alternative measure was being used when the unit was below 20 percent power during start-up.

The third alleged violation, also involving the Browns Ferry Unit 3 start-up on October 22, stems from a finding that operators failed to demonstrate the operability of all the jet pumps, which are part of the reactor cooling water recirculation system. The fourth alleged violation involves several instances of operators' failure to adhere to written procedures during plant start-up, operation and shutdown.

Dr. J. Nelson Grace, NRC Regional Administrator in Atlanta, told TVA in a letter that the fine is being proposed to emphasize the need for TVA to "strengthen management controls to ensure compliance with technical specifications and procedures" at Browns Ferry.

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