

July 31, 1984

*LD+E  
Va Elec. Power  
PR*

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 \$40,000 civil penalty  
against Virginia Electric and Power Company for an alleged noncom-  
pliance with NRC requirements at the Surry nuclear power plant.

It is planned to mail this information to the news media today,  
July 31, 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. Warner  
Sen. Tribble  
Rep. Sisisky

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## **UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

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

No. 84-94  
Tel. 301/492-7715

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
(Tuesday, July 31, 1984)

### **NRC STAFF PROPOSES \$40,000 CIVIL PENALTY AGAINST VEPCO FOR ALLEGED NONCOMPLIANCE WITH NRC REQUIREMENTS AT SURRY**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has proposed a \$40,000 civil penalty against Virginia Electric & Power Company for alleged noncompliance with NRC requirements at the Surry nuclear power plant, located near Surry, Virginia.

In a letter to the company, James P. O'Reilly, Administrator of the NRC's Region II office in Atlanta, said NRC inspection findings "established that the system for utilizing and controlling the snubber life monitoring program at Surry incorrectly assumed that all hydraulic snubbers had been rebuilt during steam generator replacement projects in 1980 and 1981.

Snubbers are hydraulic pipe restraints which are designed to function as a shock absorber to hold pipes in place during seismic activity such as an earthquake.

O'Reilly said that while inspections established that large numbers of inadequate snubbers were not present, the NRC attaches great importance to comprehensive licensing programs for the detection, correction, and reporting of programs that may constitute or lead to violations of regulatory requirements.

He noted that, once the magnitude of the problem became apparent to company management, appropriate corrective action was taken.

The company has 30 days in which to either pay the civil penalty or to protest its imposition, in whole or in part.

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