



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

December 3, 1984

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Indiana + Mich
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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, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Enclosed for your information is an announcement that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff proposes a \$50,000 fine against Indiana and Michigan Electric Company for violations of NRC safety requirements at D.C. Cook Nuclear Power Station.

It is planned to mail this information to the news media today,
December 3, 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. Levin
Sen. Riegle
Rep. Coats
Sen. Lugar
Sen. Quayle
Rep. Hiler

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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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NEWS ANNOUNCEMENT: 84-51
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NRC STAFF PROPOSES \$50,000 FINE AGAINST INDIANA AND MICHIGAN ELECTRIC COMPANY FOR VIOLATIONS OF NRC SAFETY REQUIREMENTS AT COOK NUCLEAR POWER STATION

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has proposed a \$50,000 fine against Indiana and Michigan Electric Company for violations of NRC safety requirements at the Donald C. Cook Nuclear Power Station at Bridgman, Michigan.

The fine is being proposed for three instances in June and August 1984 when safety system equipment would not have functioned as required because of inadequate procedures or practices.

In each case, the safety systems were not needed and the safety of the plant was not actually jeopardized.

On August 9, 1984, an NRC inspector determined that an auxiliary feedwater pump would not reach its expected pressure and flow rate in the time required by the plant's NRC license. This deficiency, which occurred on both Unit 1 and Unit 2, was caused by an improper control valve setting. (An auxiliary feedwater pump is a backup system to supply water to the plant's steam generators which remove heat from the reactor.)

On August 8, 1984, the NRC Resident Inspector found that two other auxiliary feedwater pumps for Unit 1 would not have started automatically if needed in some situations because of incorrect switch positions. The utility also failed to recognize that the switch positions needed to be promptly corrected.

The third instance included in the proposed fine occurred June 20, 1984, when parallel ventilation system exhaust fans for Unit 1 were both shut off, when one system is required to be operable. One system was out of service, and the second system was shut off to perform a test on the out-of-service fan. (The ventilation system protects safety system pumps against over-heating.) The switch problem occurred because of an inadequate procedure used in conducting the test on the out-of-service fan.

In a letter to the utility notifying it of the proposed fine, James G. Keppler, NRC Regional Administrator, also directed the utility to inform the NRC staff of its plans to "increase management involvement in the oversight of surveillance testing activities and in the improvement of understanding the (NRC) technical specification requirements to ensure the correct application of operating procedures."

The utility has until December 21, 1984, to pay the fine or to protest it. If it protests the fine and it is subsequently imposed by the NRC staff, the utility may request a hearing.

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November 27, 1984