



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

December 19, 1984

*LD+E  
PR  
Pa. Power*

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 staff of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has cited the Pennsylvania Power and Light Company for alleged inadequate control of operations at its Susquehanna Steam Electric Station near Berwick, Pennsylvania.

It is planned to mail this information to the news media today, December 19, 1984.

Sincerely,

*Carlton Kammerer*  
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. Harrison



## UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Office of Public Affairs  
Washington, D.C. 20555

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
(Wednesday, December 19, 1984)

### NRC STAFF CITES PENNSYLVANIA POWER & LIGHT COMPANY; PROPOSES \$50,000 FINE

The staff of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has cited the Pennsylvania Power and Light Company for alleged inadequate control of operations at its Susquehanna Steam Electric Station near Berwick, Pennsylvania. On July 26, 1984, all electric power supplies were disabled to key Unit 2 low pressure emergency core cooling water systems when a worker mistakenly opened switches that should have been left closed and a second worker, there to verify his activities, failed to identify the error. The NRC staff proposes to fine the company \$50,000.

There was no direct affect on the public from this occurrence. The error was discovered and corrected about 43 minutes after it was made. Although the company took prompt and extensive corrective action afterwards, the proposed fine has not been reduced as it might have been in such circumstances because plant staff had mistakenly operated these switches twice before and the corrective actions taken in response to the prior occurrences apparently were not effective.

James M. Taylor, Deputy Director of the Office of Inspection and Enforcement at NRC headquarters in Bethesda, Maryland, in his letter informing the company of the enforcement action, said that, "Similar improper manipulations of these...switches had occurred on June 4 and October 6, 1983." However, the worker who made the same kind of mistake on July 26 had not received the training given other workers to prevent recurrence of this kind of error.

The Notice of Violation sent to PP&L alleged that at 1:37 a.m., after the switches in question had been opened, a test was started to demonstrate that substitute emergency systems power would be automatically provided in the event the regular off-site source of power was lost. However, because of the mistakenly opened switches, the plant's four emergency diesel-powered electric generators failed to automatically start and therefore all alternating (AC) power was lost to Unit 2.

NRC inspectors subsequently found that alleged violations of four NRC requirements had contributed to the event.

Taylor said in the Notice of Violation that "This was a serious event which demonstrates the importance of controls to ensure safe performance of licensed activities and to ensure that significant problems that have been identified are thoroughly corrected to prevent recurrences."

PP&L has 30 days to either pay the proposed fine or to request in writing that part or all of it be withdrawn. The company also has 30 days to tell the NRC staff in writing what it has done or plans to do to prevent a recurrence of this kind of violation.

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

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