

State

Nuclear commission increases fine against CP&L

From Associated Press reports
 RALEIGH — A proposed fine against Carolina Power & Light Co. was increased 50 percent because the scope of an alleged violation was identified by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission after questioning CP&L's evaluation, the NRC said Tuesday.
 CP&L spokesman Elizabeth Bean said the Raleigh-based utility would

not protest the \$75,000 fine, imposed for an alleged violation at the Brunswick nuclear plant, located near Southport. But she emphasized that the company had changed its way of handling possible problems.
 "Improvements have been made in this area since the events occurred that led to the civil penalty," Bean said. "It reflects a need for improvement at the

time that led to the civil penalty; it does not reflect the aggressive work the plant has done since then to do more problem solving, or root-cause analysis."
 Problem solving "has been one of the major areas of focus at the plant over the last two years," Bean said. The problems at the Brunswick plant were discovered in February 1988, or about two years ago.

The base civil penalty for the violation is \$50,000, the NRC said.
 The NRC said the penalty was proposed because the company failed to promptly identify and correct deficiencies in the plant's service water system, which provides cooling for both safety- and nonsafety-related components during normal operation. The system is designed to isolate nonsafety-related

components during an emergency to assure adequate cooling water for safety-related equipment.
 The NRC resident inspector raised initial concerns on the matter in February 1988, with questions about the company's handling of an issue involving electrical relays associated with a valve that would be used to isolate nonsafety-related components during

an emergency.
 The agency said the company incorrectly determined that concerns about the system's adequacy did not exist.
 And on Aug. 6, 1988, service water pump motors were identified as operating with high winding temperatures. The NRC said the problem was not corrected soon enough, as evidenced by the failure of one of the motors on April 27, 1989.

The NRC told the company that the matter was of concern because a degraded service water system may not have been able to provide enough cooling to safety-related equipment under some accident conditions. The NRC also said the company failed to conduct adequate reviews and evaluations to recognize the safety significance of the issues.

"The NRC is alleging that plant personnel should have been more aggressive in problem-solving or in better identifying the underlying causes of problems," Bean said. "We took corrective actions; we did evaluations; and ultimately, the problems were solved. Basically, the NRC says we should have been more aggressive."
 The NRC said the company corrected the valve failure concern by the addition of a second valve as a backup.

N.C. firm to correct systems

From Associated Press reports
 WINSTON-SALEM — The manager of a waste treatment plant said his firm was ready to make improvements to waste-collection systems that state officials said last week posed cancer risks up to 2,000 times the level allowed by federal health guidelines.
 Carolina Solite Corp. is under fire for health risks associated with its use of more than 62 million pounds of hazardous waste as a fuel.

The company, in a letter to the N.C. Division of Environmental Management obtained by the Winston-Salem Journal, disputes state regulators on some of its waste-disposal practices — for which it could be fined \$10,000 a day.
 The main point of contention centers on the plant's discharging industrial wastewater and sludge from its four kilns into two holding ponds that empty through a conveyance ditch to the Rocky River.

State inspectors said high levels of toxic metals had been detected in the waste, and they contend that the company has illegally degraded Long Branch with discharges since 1976.
 James Colburn, manager of the light-weight-aggregate plant near Aquadale, said in a letter that the company would no longer use the ponds and would instead build two settlement ponds, double-lined with steel and concrete, if the state would approve the permit application by March 1.
 "If approval of this application is delayed, Carolina Solite will cease burning waste fuel until such time as the above system is completed," Colburn wrote.

Brenda Smith, a regional supervisor for the state agency's Mooresville office, said that the proposal came as a surprise.
 "That plan is voluntary on their part. The company appears to be willing to work with us. We're still reviewing their response."
 Colburn outlined the following plans for changes at the plant, which has been under state investigation since residents complained of noxious fumes and waste particles in the air in November.

Carolina Solite will extend two discharge lines to the Rocky River for its waste water to avoid putting waste water into the small stream.
 The company will apply for a state permit to allow it to discharge wash water used to rinse piles of shale that are mixed in the kilns at high temperatures to produce a construction material.
 Colburn said that the company was not aware that a permit was needed for the runoff.
 Under a proposed court order, soil samples at the plant and from neighboring property is to be tested for toxic metals and a large sludge pile is to be analyzed.

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