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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NRC STAFF PROPOSES \$25,000 FINE FOR DISCRIMINATION AGAINST
CONTRACTOR EMPLOYEE WHO RAISED SAFETY QUESTIONS AT D. C. COOK

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has proposed a \$25,000 fine against Indiana Michigan Power Company for discrimination by a contractor against an employee who raised safety questions at the D. C. Cook Nuclear Center.

The individual, who was employed by American Nuclear Resources, Inc., was discharged by the company on March 20, 1992, after he raised questions about his exposure to radiation during work at the plant and requested a copy of records related to his exposure.

The individual filed a complaint with the U. S. Department of Labor alleging that he was improperly discharged by American Nuclear Resources. A Department of Labor Administrative Law Judge concluded that discrimination had occurred.

NRC regulations prohibit discrimination against an employee of an NRC licensee and its contractors for raising safety issues, including requesting information about exposure to radiation. Indiana Michigan Power Company was cited for failing to comply with this NRC requirement.

In addition, the utility is required to inform the NRC of the work performed by the American Nuclear Resources supervisors at the plant and the basis for concluding that they fully understand their obligation to fulfill NRC regulations and license requirements. This information will be used to determine if further regulatory action is required.

The utility was also directed to inform the NRC of the corrective actions taken or planned to minimize the potential chilling effect of the incident on the ability of employees to raise safety concerns.

The decision by the Department of Labor Administrative Law Judge is still being reviewed by the Secretary of Labor. The utility may delay responding to the proposed fine until 30 days after the Department of Labor decision becomes final. The

utility may protest the proposed fine, and if the fine is subsequently imposed by the NRC staff, Indiana Michigan Electric may request a hearing.

Indiana Michigan Power Company has until September 7, 1993, however, to provide the information requested on the contractor supervisors and the corrective actions.

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