



NRC NEWS

**UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS, REGION II**

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NRC STAFF PROPOSES \$60,000 CIVIL PENALTY AGAINST DUKE ENERGY FOR VIOLATION OF NRC REQUIREMENTS AT OCONEE NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has proposed a \$60,000 civil penalty against Duke Energy Corporation for violation of NRC safety requirements at the Oconee Nuclear Station near Seneca, South Carolina.

NRC inspectors found that the licensee revised an analysis of a hypothetical steam or feedwater pipe break accident scenario in May 2001 without first obtaining NRC review and approval. The revised analysis postponed the initiation time of required safety systems, which the NRC considers to be a change to the Oconee Final Safety Analysis Report that requires prior NRC approval.

NRC officials said the change may involve an increase in risk, and the NRC was not afforded an adequate opportunity to perform its regulatory oversight function by reviewing the change.

The NRC said no problems occurred at Oconee as a result of the unauthorized changes and that the company is in the process of implementing corrective actions.

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

A copy of an NRC letter to Duke which outlines details of the civil penalty is available from the NRC Office of Public Affairs in Atlanta and will be available through the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) on the NRC's Web Site at www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html. Help in using ADAMS is available from the NRC Public Document Room at 301-415-4737 or 1-800-397-4209.

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