Texas Utilities Co. Faces $370,000 Fines Proposed by the NRC


DALLAS -- The Nuclear Regulatory Commission said it proposed fining Texas Utilities Co. $370,000 for violating regulations in the construction of the Comanche Peak nuclear power plant.

The commission said it proposed two fines: $120,000 for intimidation and harassment of quality control workers and $250,000 for violating requirements in the plant's quality control program. An NRC spokesman said most of the violations occurred in 1983 and 1984, and most weren't related to the actual construction of the plant.

The spokesman said most of the violations of the quality control program were related to how employees documented the construction rather than how the construction was done at the plant, about 75 miles southwest of Dallas. For instance, he said, some workers signed off on some construction items that they didn't actually see.

Texas Utilities has 30 days to respond to the proposal for the $120,000 fine and 60 days to respond to the $250,000 proposal. The NRC will evaluate the utility's response before actually levying a fine.

A Texas Utilities spokesman said the company won't decide whether to fight the fines until it can review the NRC's findings.

As previously reported, Texas Utilities, which owns 87.6% of the plant, recently pushed back the completion date on Comanche Peak to beyond mid-1987 because of a lengthy reinspection program that turned up needs for additional repairs. Because of the delay, the total cost of the plant likely will exceed $5.46 billion, the latest cost estimate.