

DOCKET NUMBER
PETITION RULE PRM 30-62
(64FR57785)

DOCKETED
JAN 10 2000

Nicole Morris
2710 Galisteo Rd. Apt. C
Santa Fe, NM 87505

'00 JAN 10 P 3:29

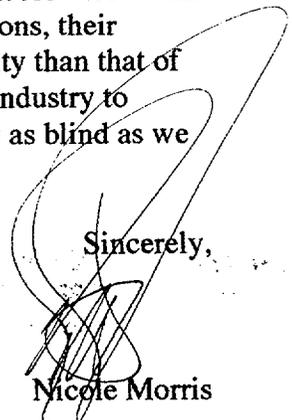
Secretary of the Commission
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington D.C. 20555-0001

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to you in support of the two proposed rules that are currently before you. The first rule, to establish limits on employee working hours at nuclear power plants, is a must. As you must know, employee fatigue impairs working ability to a greater degree than your own legal limit for blood alcohol content. You have addressed the issues of alcohol and drug abuse on the job, why not extend that to worker fatigue?

I work a month long night shift two months out of the year. Each time I transition into the work I observe marked differences in my ability to perceive and function properly. I hear voices and other sounds that have no source, my reactions are slow, and it can take awhile for me to recognize what I am seeing. Based solely on my own experience with fatigue, I ask you to really regulate what nuclear plant owners demand from their employees. As with many companies during the 80's and 90's, the shift to a reduction in staff and a greater workload for those who remain, has been the key to greater profitability. To leave decisions like these in the hands of the industry by claiming that "sound management practices" will be more effective than regulations, is to revisit Upton Sinclair's expose on Chicago's meat-packing industry at the turn of our last century*.

I am also in favor of the second proposed rule - training on employee protection regulations to supervisors, managers and directors. Please protect "whistleblowers" with an action greater than a slap on the wrist. These people risk their reputations, their friends, their families, their lives, and their jobs to follow a greater integrity than that of the bottom line. Don't allow their efforts to go to waste by allowing the industry to discriminate against them. No industry is "ignorant of the law"; it is only as blind as we allow it to be.

Sincerely,

Nicole Morris

* I refer, of course, to Upton Sinclair's, The Jungle.