From:
To: <bcw@nrc.gov>
Date: Wed, Oct 11, 2000 7:00 AM
Subject: Task Force Comment

Barry,

Please consider this a comment for the Task Force:

The NRC needs to objectively look at its own internal processes, and be willing to address and discuss them, as part of the Task Force goals and purpose. Making changes, without fixing short-falls in the internal NRC processes,does little to advance the overall public safety associated with any changes.

The current NRC process could work well enough if the NRC would just apply the carefulness, precision, consistency, judgment and punitive action needed to stress discrimination deterrence. Otherwise, I would describe the overall task force purpose and goals as a "Trojan Horse", filled with utility lawyers, being brought through the gates of Troy (public safety), by the NRC. Once the "Horse" is inside (the task force), the lawyers will spill out and conquer...just an analogy I thought could/would fit the process if the NRC does nothing to address its own problems as part of this process.

I have attached an excerpt from NUREG 1415 that I believe is very appropriate to the task force. I would like to identify and discuss this excerpt in the next task force meeting that I attend. Thanks for your time and attention.

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The Investigative Program

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During this reporting period, the OIG received 119 allegations, initiated 15 investigations and 1 Event Inquiry, and closed 35 cases and 3 Event Inquiries. In addition, the OIG made 46 referrals to NRC management.

Investigative Case Summaries

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NRC Staff's Handling of Harassment and Intimidation Complaints

The OIG conducted an Event Inquiry (EI) in response to a request from three members of the Connecticut Congressional delegation. Specifically, the Congressional members requested that the OIG review the process and specific conclusions contained in several investigations conducted by the NRC Office of Investigations (OI). These investigations dealt with complaints of harassment and intimidation (H&I) by several former employees who had been laid off from work at a nuclear power plant in Connecticut.

The OIG inquiry revealed deficiencies in the documentation of the process followed by the NRC staff in reaching a conclusion regarding enforcement action in one of the cases. Additionally, the OIG found that portions of briefings provided by the staff to the Commission were not clear with regard to the staff's intended actions. Finally, the OIG found that the staff had insufficient information on which to base a conclusion contained in their written correspondence with some of the allegers. *(Addresses Management Challenge #5)*