Dear NRC,

There exists a serious operability concern here at the Harris Nuclear Power plant near Raleigh, NC, one that affects systems intended to help mitigate the consequences of an accident with the Plant. The systems affected are the RHR and Containment Spray systems as the problem exists within the recirculation sumps in the basement of the containment building. The problem is that apparently non-safety related bolts and steel bars were temporarily installed in the bottom of the sumps back during construction to hold plywood covers in place. However, somehow these bars and bolts, large 1" thick steel, were never removed and have been overlooked ever since. This is particularly disconcerting as during the recent outage workers were able to knock one of these devices loose by merely bumping into it while working in the sump. The items are installed in the bottom of the sump at the pipe leading to the RHR and Containment Spray pump suctions and are just tack welded on and are very rusty. I doubt if Q welds were used to put them on. I could not find any details on design drawings so I am sure they are not supposed to be there. If one of these were to come loose during the high flow conditions of a LOCA, these large steel items would fall directly into the pumps, likely destroying them.

[redacted] I even saw NRC folks down there and they didn't seem to be interested. I guess everyone is worried about the SALP ratings and plant production goals and how they look. It seems to me that this is something that should be addressed and as a concerned employee I can no longer bite my tongue. I am afraid to bring this up again in our environment of punitive actions and demotions so I am hoping that the NRC can look into this and do something about it. Surely the public is at some sort of risk here. There are many strange things going on at Harris that no one seems to care about. Its going to be quite a interesting situation when some of these items come out. Kind of makes you sad when you think about the strong safety record that Harris used to have in dealing with these kind of things.

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If something cannot be done soon, I guess I will have to the newspapers with this letter.

A concerned Harris employee

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