

April 3, 1997

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NOTE TO: Bruno Uryc, Director
Enforcement and Investigations Coordination Staff (EICS)

FROM: Al Ignatonis, Senior Allegation Coordinator, EICS

SUBJECT: ALLEGATION NUMBER RII-1996-A-0249, ICE CONDENSER
MAINTENANCE ISSUE INVOLVING BROKEN SCREWS AND ALLEGED
DISCRIMINATION

On April 3, 1997, at approximately 9:30 a.m., I received a phone call from Ms. Rossana Raspa, of the NRC OIG office. She called me to discuss an ALLEGER's discrimination complaint and the ALLEGER's technical concern of broken screws in the ice condenser system. These issues relate to allegation number RII-1996-A-0249. Ms. Raspa wanted to know Region II actions and status of the allegation report.

I informed Ms. Raspa that the ALLEGER filed a discrimination complaint with DOL against TVA sometime after we received the ALLEGER's initial concerns in late 1996. And, that the DOL complaint is being tracked under another allegation case number (RII-1997-A-0058). The discussion focused on the ALLEGER's technical concern i.e., broken ice condenser screws. Ms. Raspa was of the understanding that the ALLEGER's safety concern may be plant generic. She wanted to know who was following-up on the technical issue and will TVA's Problem Evaluation Report (PER) be reviewed. I told her that action was assigned to DRS Maintenance Branch and that inspections were being performed at Duke Power Company's facilities. I also told her that I was not sure if TVA's PER will also be inspected for technical adequacy. With regard to allegation case closure of the technical issue, I told her that Region II is targeting for May 15, 1997.

Ms. Raspa asked how long did the NRC know about the issue of broken ice condenser screws. I told her that the issue of broken screws at ice condenser plants was known by the NRC for sometime. She asked for how long, and I responded that it was probably years ago, possibly going back to the licensing of the Catawba facility. She asked if there was a Generic Letter. I told her that I didn't know if there was one on this issue. Ms. Raspa also wanted to know if we will be looking into background history on this technical issue. I responded that in my opinion, the inspector may obtain historical information on broken screws from Duke Power Company when following-up on the concern. In concluding the conversation, Ms. Raspa said that sometime in the future she wants to look at our allegation case file. With regard to allegation material, I mentioned to her that if she has access to AMS, she can view the concern and the chronology of events. She responded that there may be documentation in the case file such as ARB meeting minutes and letters that would be of interest to her.

At 11:25 a.m., of the same date, I received another phone call from Ms. Raspa. She

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requested for a copy of the allegation case file (RII-1996-A-0249) to be sent to her by mail using normal security measures when transmitting allegation material. I told her that I will work on it.