

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
WASHINGTON, DC 20555

May 16, 1988

NRC INFORMATION NOTICE NO. 88-26: FALSIFIED PRE-EMPLOYMENT SCREENING RECORDS

Addressees:

All holders of operating licenses or construction permits for nuclear power reactors and all major fuel facility licensees.

Purpose:

This information notice is being provided to alert addressees to the falsification of pre-employment screening records at nuclear facilities. It is expected that recipients will review the information for applicability to their facilities and consider actions, as appropriate, to avoid similar problems. However, suggestions contained in this information notice do not constitute NRC requirements; therefore, no specific action or written response is required.

Description of Circumstances:

In 1984, individuals working for a contractor at the Surry Nuclear Plant alleged that the contractor had encouraged them to provide false information on employment applications concerning their length of service in order to avoid the background checks that are needed to satisfy security screening requirements. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) Office of Investigations conducted an investigation of the activities of Powerplant Specialists, Inc. (PSI), Costa Mesa, California, who in a joint venture with Southwestern Engineering Company, Los Angeles, California, was modifying moisture separator reheater internals at both the North Anna Power Station and the Surry Nuclear Plant. This investigation showed that in order to obtain unescorted access for its employees, PSI provided false certifications and supporting documentation, such as backdated employment applications and W-4 Federal tax forms, to show at least three years prior employment with PSI.

The false certifications would have led to exemption of these individuals from the screening requirements of the licensee's NRC-approved physical security plan implemented in accordance with 10 CFR 50.34(c).

Discussion:

The NRC has issued IE Circular No. 78-17, "Inadequate Guard Training/Qualification and Falsified Training Records," dated October 13, 1978; IE Information Notice No. 82-07, "Inadequate Security Screening Programs," dated

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March 16, 1982; IE Information Notice No. 83-15, "Falsified Pre-Employment Screening Records," dated March 23, 1983; and NRC Information Notice 87-64, "Conviction for Falsification of Security Training Records" dated December 22, 1987. These documents alerted licensees to the possibility that contractors might submit falsified security records to meet licensee commitments to the NRC.

This information notice is intended to alert licensees to the potential problems associated with falsified employment records and the attendant risk to site security. Audits required by 10 CFR 73.55(g) and associated security plan commitments are intended to provide assurance that records are accurate and complete. Licensees currently employing PSI or similar contractors who will conduct the pre-employment screening should be aware of the potential for record falsification and the need for appropriate audits. Licensees are also encouraged to notify the NRC of any instances of the use of falsified screening records they may discover.

No specific action or written response is required by this information notice. If you have any questions about this matter, please contact the technical contact listed below or the Regional Administrator of the appropriate regional office.

Charles E. Rossi
Charles E. Rossi, Director
Division of Operational Events Assessment
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Technical Contact: Dick Rosano, Office of Enforcement
(301) 492-0740

Attachment: List of Recently Issued NRC Information Notices

LIST OF RECENTLY ISSUED
NRC INFORMATION NOTICES

Information Notice No.	Subject	Date of Issuance	Issued to
88-25	Minimum Edge Distance for Expansion Anchor Bolts	5/16/88	All holders of OLs or CPs for nuclear power reactors.
88-24	Failures of Air-Operated Valves Affecting Safety- Related Systems	5/13/88	All holders of OLs or CPs for nuclear power reactors.
88-23	Potential for Gas Binding of High-Pressure Safety Injection Pumps During a Loss-of-Coolant Accident	5/12/88	All holders of OLs or CPs for PWRs.
88-22	Disposal of Sludge from Onsite Sewage Treatment Facilities at Nuclear Power Stations	5/12/88	All holders of OLs or CPs for nuclear power reactors.
88-21	Inadvertent Criticality Events at Oskarshamn and at U.S. Nuclear Power Plants	5/9/88	All holders of OLs or CPs for nuclear power reactors.
88-20	Unauthorized Individuals Manipulating Controls and Performing Control Room Activities	5/5/88	All holders of OLs or CPs for nuclear power, test and research reactors, and all licensed operators.
88-19	Questionable Certification of Class 1E Components	4/26/88	All holders of OLs or CPs for nuclear power reactors.
88-18	Malfunction of Lockbox on Radiography Device	4/25/88	All NRC licensees authorized to manufacture, distribute, and/or operate radio- graphic exposure devices.

OL = Operating License
CP = Construction Permit

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Transmitted by memo to T. Martin from James Lieberman dated April 8, 1988.

*SEE PREVIOUS CONCURRENCES

D/DOEA-NRR CEB 05/10/88	*C/OGCB:DOEA:NRR CHBerlinger 05/03/88	*PPMB:ARM TechEd 04/27/88	*D/SGTR:NMSS RBurnett 05/09/88
*OGCB:DOEA:NRR BMann 04/18/88	*OE DRosano 04/18/88	*D/OE JLieberman 04/18/88	*D/OI BHayes 05/09/88

*OI transmitted
their comments in a
Memo dated 5/3/88
from Ben Hayes to C. Rossi*

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04/27/88
*D/DRIS:NRR
JGPartlow
04/22/88

D/SGTR:NMSS
RBurnett *CMC for RB*
05/1/88 *by phone*
*D/OI
BHayes
04/ /88

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dated 4/8/88

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NMSS
R. Burnett

Discussion:

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*NOTE -
No objection
DOS per
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4/18/88*

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