

RUI SENSITIVE ALLEGATION MATERIAL

From: Donna Pirok
To: Allegations Allegations Region III
Date: Wed, May 5, 2004 10:20 AM
Subject: Memo to RIII Office Allegation Coordinator

See Attached

May 4, 2004

MEMORANDUM TO: Region III Office Allegation Coordinator

FROM: Patrick Loudon, Chief, Branch 7, Division of Reactor Projects
/RA/
SUBJECT: REVIEW OF INFORMATION: ALLEGATION NO. RIII-04-A-0048
(POINT BEACH)

In accordance with the April 14, 2004, e-mail request from Magdalena Dziedzic, we have completed our review of the information related to the corrective action program at Point Beach that was submitted anonymously to the NRC.

Regulatory Basis

The NRC's review of the corrective action program is typically done under Criterion XVI, "Corrective Action," of Appendix B of 10 CFR Part 50.

Recommended Action

Because the concerned individual provided no specific examples and because the corrective action program was found to be adequate during an extensive review during the Inspection Procedure 95003 supplemental inspection in 2003 and during the routine reviews by the resident inspectors, we recommend that these concerns be closed without further expenditure of NRC resources. Future routine reviews by the resident inspectors and the Problem Identification and Resolution baseline inspection scheduled for September 2004 should provide for prompt identification of any significant performance problems in the licensee's corrective action program. We recommend that these concerns be forwarded to the licensee for information.

SENSITIVE ALLEGATION MATERIAL

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AMS No. RIII-04-A-0048

Each stated concern or NRC identified issue should be documented on a separate sheet. Each concern must be documented and written with enough detail to allow thorough follow up.

Concern No. 1: An individual is concerned that the present over-emphasis on backlog reduction and arbitrary "Excellence Plan" items significantly reduces the Point Beach plant staff's ability to identify, evaluate, and resolve issues.

Regulatory Basis:

- I. Action Evaluation: The following method of resolution is recommended (circle):
- A. Send to Licensee Requesting Response in _____ Days. (Describe the general areas we expect the licensee to address.)
 - B. Priority RIII Follow up and Closure Memo to OAC
 - C. Follow up During Routine Inspection Within _____ Days and Closure Memo to OAC
 - D. Refer to OI. Recommended Priority: HIGH NORMAL LOW
Recommended Basis:
 - E. Outside NRC's Jurisdiction. Describe Basis Below.
 - F. Too General for Follow-up. Describe Basis Below.
 - G. Other (specify) -

Responsible for Action - _____

II. Special Considerations/Instructions:

Basis: Without specific examples, a large number of NRC resources would be required to address this concern. The reference to backlog reduction is ambiguous: it could refer to a backlog in the corrective action program, a backlog in corrective or preventive maintenance, or a backlog in modifications, or procedure or calculation revisions.

The licensee's development and implementation of its Excellence Plan, in general, have been discussed with and reviewed by NRC inspectors and managers, particularly as part of the 95003 supplemental inspection and at public meetings. The priorities assigned to the Excellence Plan items have been set by the licensee and the items have been incorporated into the site's corrective action program, which has also been discussed with and reviewed by NRC inspectors and managers. The Excellence Plan and corrective action program have been found by the NRC to be acceptable.

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Each stated concern or NRC identified issue should be documented on a separate sheet. Each concern must be documented and written with enough detail to allow thorough follow up.

Concern No. 2: An individual is concerned that a widespread "chilling effect" exists at Point Beach, in that, in fear of retaliation: a) workers do not perform thorough evaluations of corrective actions because of a negative perception associated with asking for a due date extension, and b) workers do not admit to or report personal errors. A consequence of this, is that the corrective action program is not being used and, as a result, is not effective.

Regulatory Basis:

- I. Action Evaluation: The following method of resolution is recommended (circle):
- A. Send to Licensee Requesting Response in _____ Days. (Describe the general areas we expect the licensee to address.)
 - B. Priority RIII Follow up and Closure Memo to OAC
 - C. Follow up During Routine Inspection Within _____ Days and Closure Memo to OAC
 - D. Refer to OI. Recommended Priority: HIGH NORMAL LOW
Recommended Basis:
 - E. Outside NRC's Jurisdiction. Describe Basis Below.
 - F. **Too General for Follow-up. Describe Basis Below.**
 - G. Other (specify) -

Responsible for Action - _____

II. Special Considerations/Instructions:

Basis: Without specific examples, a large number of NRC resources would be required to address this concern. The licensee's corrective action program was reviewed by the NRC during the Inspection Procedure 95003 supplemental inspection. This review included an assessment of the thoroughness of selected evaluations and the willingness of plant staff to identify issues. In general, the corrective action program was found to be adequate. The effectiveness of the corrective action program is also reviewed as part of the resident inspectors' routine inspection efforts.