

E. Cobey

From: [redacted] *nc*
To: <ewc@nrc.gov>
Date: 10/19/04 11:47AM
Subject: Interviews of PSEG Nuclear operators

Gene,

Salem/Hope Creek's nuclear licensing organization is telling the site that the SIT members will likely be onsite 1-2 weeks and the scope includes interviewing operators on duty during the event as well as those in the training organization.

I am asking you to thoroughly counsel the team on how they are to go about interviewing PSEG employees. It is incumbent upon the "interviewers" to make it safe for the operators, both Control Room and Nuclear Equipment Operators, to say what is on their minds. Fear is still rampant, some disagree with what [redacted] has said re. the incident (including the cause being the hanger and the problems with the safety systems), and there is concern that what people report to the SIT members will "get back" to their bosses and they will, at a minimum, be viewed with disfavor.

I believe it is imperative that the SIT interview [redacted] separately. In addition, whenever possible, the operators should be interviewed separately also.

As you know, there is an "art" to interviewing to make it "safe" for people to speak candidly. It has been reported to me that numerous people previously interviewed by the NRC/OI during the SCWE investigation did not fully express their views, especially when the company attorney was present.

It is my understanding that the SIT will not be including SCWE issues related to this event. However, I do believe the team members need to understand the work environment issues in order to fully get to the technical issues.

I ask that the Special Inspection Team members heighten their sensitivity to the work environment issues so we can all understand that happened last Sunday evening and how to avert other events in the future.

Feel free to call me if you would like to discuss.

Thank you.

Kymn

Nancy Kymn Harvin, Ph.D.
[redacted] *nc*

CC: <ARB@nrc.gov>, <DJV@nrc.gov>

T-229