

From: A. Randolph Blough
To: David Vito; Ernest Wilson
Date: 8/19/04 1:49PM
Subject: Re: Yesterday's Meeting -- Note from 'public' algeber

7C

See note below.

notice that, while she is genuinely thanking us, she is also opining that we still may not have gotten to the whole way to the bottom of things.

She mentions that she was impressed with the staff members involved in yesterday's meeting -- I was also very much impressed.

randy

>> [REDACTED] 08/19/04 01:14PM >> ~

Randy and Dave,

Thank you for the meeting we had yesterday. I appreciated the opportunity to hear more about the findings/impressions/sense of things at Salem/Hope Creek.

I left with a much keener understanding of the process and the NRC's approach to the investigation. I was also quite impressed with the team---Scott Barber, Tim Wingfield, and Anne Passarelli. I know others are involved as well, including the Resident Inspectors. Please convey my appreciation to all.

I am sure you and the investigators realize there is often an "unwritten rule" at play, especially in assessments and investigations, that says, "Do not to implicate current executives; put responsibility on those who've left." Corporate attorneys, who often brief employees before they are interviewed and may then accompany the person during the interview, make this clear in veiled ways. "Protect the 'big guns' at all cost" is another way of saying it. I realize we may never exactly know who-said-what-when regarding key decisions. I appreciate the extents you and your team go to to get to root issues and to understand dynamics and decision-making norms.

I support the NRC characterizing the SCWE at Salem/Hope Creek as a "substantive cross-cutting issue." Like you, I want to be sure PSEG gives this attention for the long haul, not just while Chris Bakken is CNO or while "the pressure is on." I believe such an action would also signal the industry that the NRC considers a strong SCWE to be a significant cornerstone to nuclear safety and performance. As I've said many times, let's have as much "good" (and good learning) come of this and make the industry stronger.

Please feel free to contact me any time. Thank you again.

X
Kymn

N. Kymn Harvin, Ph.D.
[REDACTED]

CC: Anne Passarelli ; Eugene Cobey; James Clifford; James Wiggins; Jeffrey Teator; Samuel Collins; Scott Barber; Theodore Wingfield

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Creation Date: 8/19/04 1:49PM
From: A. Randolph Blough
Created By: ARB@nrc.gov

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