

October 22, 2007

Mr. Elmo E. Collins  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Region IV Regional Administrator  
611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 400  
Arlington, TX 76011-4005

Subject:

Confirmatory Order #IA-07-039, Requirement Two: Re-commitment to Integrity in Thought and Deed

Mr. Collins, Region IV Administrator,

I am grateful for the opportunity to express in writing my re-commitment to a principle irrevocably associated with the nuclear power industry, that of Integrity. I lost focus of this basic tenet for a brief time in the early morning hours of November 8, 2006, a fact that I look back on with regret.

My actions had, by far, larger implications than I had ever imagined. The possible effect on the public's trust in nuclear power and the people who work within it has greatly troubled me. In an attempt to bolster up this pillar upon which nuclear power is built, I have actively engaged in a one-on-one campaign with those in the community with whom I interact. I take the opportunity to vocally support the safety and security of today's nuclear power industry. The defense in depth of design, the training and requirements for the personnel, and the physical safety and security necessary in today's troubled world are often topics discussed during these conversations.

The recent successful license candidates and the class in progress at the facility where I was recently assigned have had the principles of honesty and integrity forcefully presented to them. I was direct and passionate in attempting to instill within them the necessity of doing what is right all the time. I also was direct in my presentation to them, that if problems occur or if mistakes are made, they should stop and notify others. They should not think about possible personal consequences and second guess themselves into a state of mental confusion that could lead to inappropriate actions. I was forceful in my presentation to them that if mistakes are made, that they should take action to get supervision involved to correct the issue immediately.

Before this event, I thought I had a firm grasp of the concept of honesty and integrity. I have taught it to others. Dozens of Boy Scouts working towards their Eagle rank knew of my belief in these attributes. Young men and women in various church youth groups/classes have heard me talk about it. My own four children have heard the phrase; "Do what is right because it is right, not because someone is looking" so many times that it probably made their heads spin. Unfortunately, it wasn't until I had lost sight of it myself and made some inappropriate decisions and actions back in November of 2006, that I realized how important it really was to me. As I have been re-building my feelings of personal self-worth following my earlier actions, the importance of personal integrity has been irrevocably seared into the very fiber of my soul. I now know, without a doubt, that I will adhere to and forcefully support this principle in my daily life and daily actions.

I am grateful for the opportunity to continue working and being involved with the nuclear power industry. I will strive to live all parts of my life so that there can be no doubt in anybody's mind that honesty and integrity are of the utmost importance to me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Sharp". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.