

From: "Beth Daley" <bdaley@pogo.org>
To: <tsm5@nrc.gov>
Date: 09/28/2007 12:25:23 PM
Subject: FW: Press release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Peter Stockton or Marthea Cowart, 202-347-1122

Security Warnings Ignored at Peach Bottom Nuclear Power Plant

March 2007 Letter Warned of Sleeping Guards

Washington, D.C. -- Today in a letter to Chairman Dale Klein of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), Danielle Brian, Executive Director of the Project On Government Oversight (POGO), strongly suggested that NRC Region I personnel be excluded from investigations into security problems at Peach Bottom.

POGO cites a March 2007 letter in which a former employee at Peach Bottom attempted to warn the NRC about sleeping officers and excessive overtime, which are the focus of controversy this week. According to the letter, NRC's Region I "has repeatedly ignored such warnings from security officers." A copy of the letter can be viewed here:

<http://www.pogoarchives.org/m/nss/peach-bottom-2007.pdf>

Full text of POGO's letter to the NRC follows below.

A 2002 report by POGO "Nuclear Power Plant Security: Voices from Inside the Fences" reported that security guards at the nation's nuclear power plants were being excessively overworked post 9/11, leading to fatigue and inability to perform. (See

<http://www.pogo.org/p/environment/eo-020901-nukepower.html>)

Founded in 1981, the Project On Government Oversight (POGO) is an independent nonprofit that investigates and exposes corruption and other misconduct in order to achieve a more accountable federal government.

+++++

September 28, 2007

Chairman Dale E. Klein

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

11555 Rockville Pike

Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Chairman Klein:

POGO has been closely following a series of investigative reports by WCBS in New York involving videos of sleeping security officers at the Peach Bottom Nuclear Power Plant in eastern Pennsylvania. As you know, Exelon, the power plant owner, has fired Wackenhut, the security contractor at Peach Bottom.

In March 2007, a former employee at Peach Bottom sent a letter to the NRC Resident Inspector (attached) at the plant in an attempt to warn about the sleeping officers and excessive overtime, which are the focus of controversy this week. There is no indication that the NRC Resident Inspector or Region I followed up on the letter. According to the letter, current security officers at the plant were so fearful of retaliation, that they were unwilling to report their concerns. The letter describes a highly retaliatory environment and a security department culture which is geared towards "KEEPING YOUR MOUTH SHUT."

In fact, Region I has repeatedly ignored such warnings from security officers. For example, Salem and Hope Creek Nuclear Power Plant security officers contacted the Congress in 2003 about fatigue problems and lack of training after their pleas for help from Region I were ignored. POGO arranged a meeting between NRC Commissioner Edward McGaffigan and 45

D 54

security officers from Salem Hope Creek. Commissioner McGaffigan was shocked by the conditions, and immediately got the Commission to approve Orders changing the overtime rules to prevent overworking of guards and increasing training. Region I had been fully aware of these problems, and ignored them. Similar issues were raised with Region I from security officers at Beaver Valley and Indian Point nuclear power plants.

In a final act of desperation at Peach Bottom, a security officer videotaped sleeping security officers in the Ready Room, as seen on WCBS. On September 20, 2007, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued a press release announcing that it was dispatching a five-member team to Peach Bottom to conduct a special security investigation, including "specialists from the Agency's Region I office" and "NRC Resident Inspectors" who "have been monitoring the situation."

I strongly suggest that, under these circumstances, Region I and the NRC Resident Inspector should not be involved in any way in this investigation. In fact, I believe they should be the target of an NRC Inspector General investigation (IG). POGO has been in touch with the IG about this matter. Sincerely,

Danielle Brian
Executive Director
Enclosure

cc:

House Committee on Energy and Commerce Chairman John Dingell and Ranking Member Joe Barton
House Committee on Energy Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations Committee Chairman Bart Stupak and Ranking Member Ed Whitfield
Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works Committee Chairman Barbara Boxer and Ranking Member James M. Inhofe
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Chairman Jeff Bingaman and Ranking Member Pete V. Domenici
###

Please note my new email address is <mailto:bdaley@pogo.org>
bdaley@pogo.org

Beth Daley, Director of Investigations
Project On Government Oversight
666 11th Street, NW, #900, Washington, DC 20001
Phone 202-347-1122
Fax 202-347-1116
Web <http://www.pogo.org>

Founded in 1981, the Project On Government Oversight is an independent nonprofit which investigates and exposes corruption and other misconduct in order to achieve a more accountable federal government.

NRC Site Inspector
United States Regulatory Commission
Peach Bottom Nuclear Power Station
1848 Lay Road
Delta, PA 17314

RE: Reporting Nuclear SafeGuard/Safety Concerns of Security Officers at Peach Bottom Atomic

This letter was produced after considering self imposed NRC policies that restrain the NRC from investigating a Nuclear SafeGuards/Safety concern unless an individual is willing to provide their name. Unfortunately, the fear of retaliation against Security Officers at Peach Bottom, does not allow them the confidence to report concerns openly. Regardless, this letter is being written by me and not the employee's working at Peach Bottom Atomic. The reason I am writing the letter is because the employees fear loosing their job's if they contact you. In short, I have nothing to loose and they do. The employees have been struggling with very strong moral and religious beliefs that require them to report their concerns. I have agreed to report their concerns. However, neither I nor the employees feel the necessity to put our livelihoods or our quality of life at risk to persuade the NRC to look into this matter.

I have been informed of the following. Since the security towers at Peach Bottom Atomic went into use, Security Officers have been sleeping on duty at an alarming rate. Officers are coming into work exhausted after working excessive overtime or not being able to adjust to twelve hour shift schedules. Due to fatigue, officers take power naps which last 10 to 15 minutes or longer, depending on radio transmissions. The officers are becoming very adept at coordinating amongst themselves. Officers fall asleep quickly while on duty and are able to wake momentarily when called for radio checks and then fall right back to sleep.

The officers, who have contacted me, want to report that on numerous occasions they have witnessed security officers in Bullet Resistant Enclosure (BRE) towers sleeping and other areas. The officers have to wake the sleeping officers up and feel they are becoming part of a cover-up by not reporting these incidents.

It is with great hope that the NRC will choose to take a very rigorous approach to looking into this matter. Please know that employees are aware that past efforts by the NRC to identify personnel sleeping on duty have failed. Employees are aware that efforts include: contacting the security contractor and informing them of complaints before taking any investigatory actions; referring the complaint to the licensee or security contractor for disposition, even though these are the people the employees are afraid of; increased back shift inspections by licensee management, contractor management, or the NRC; licensee QA (Employee Concerns) personnel have gone into the field and asked security personnel if anyone is sleeping on duty, or they conduct employee culture studies.

The employees want you to know that those who choose to sleep on duty are much smarter now. They know how the NRC and licensee operate and feel no one wants to really find out if anyone is sleeping, because they already know they are.

The employees report that the culture in the security department is clearly geared towards, "KEEPING YOUR MOUTH SHUT" when anyone is in the field "PULSING" employees.

It is suggested that the NRC approach this matter using covert tactics. Here are some recommendations:

1. Place undercover NRC investigators into the Armed Security Officer ranks.
2. Observe employees in towers using high power optics. The cliff behind Peach Bottom would serve well for this activity.
3. Place miniature surveillance cameras within the BREs.
4. Require officers to sit or stand so that they can be observed in a window from the ground. (At the present time officers are several stories in the air with only one entrance/exit hatch. They recline in a chair or lie on the floor, out of sight while being protected from discovery by sitting or lying on the BRE hatch door.)
5. Install dedicated CCTV which continuously observes Security Officers in BREs and personnel staging areas.

I and the employees who provided information request complete anonymity regarding this letter. We request that the NRC does not inform the licensee (Exelon) or the Security Contractor (Wackenhut) of this letter's existence.

I and the employees who provided information request that the NRC does not tell the licensee or security contractor that any Security employee has voiced concerns listed in this letter.

I and the employees who have provided information, request complete anonymity.

I do not want the NRC or it's agents to contact me in any manner.

Once again, we do realize that the NRC has certain rules regarding anonymous reporting of Unsafe/SafeGuard conditions. However, we feel that you have been provided sufficient information and suggestions necessary to look into this matter. It is now in your hands and we pray that you will take whatever action is necessary to protect employees and the general public. Our moral and religious obligations have been met and only you can decide whether you will act accordingly or hide behind policies and procedures that have proven ineffective in the past.

Respectfully,